

Dr M 'should consider implications on Malays'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been advised to consider the possible implications if he were to attend the Umno general assembly as a delegate.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said not only Malays, but also other races in the country as well as foreigners would be monitoring events at the assembly.

"Umno represents the Malays, and I am worried what happens at the assembly would reflect on the Malays' situation," he said after launching the National Language and Literature Month 2006, yesterday.

Hishammuddin, who is also the Education Minister, said the party could neither prevent nor determine who could or could not attend the assembly.

"It is up to the Umno branches in Kubang Pasu to decide whether they want Dr Mahathir to represent them."

It was reported that 32 Umno branches in the Kubang Pasu division had urged Dr Mahathir not to accept nomination as one of the division's seven delegates to the

general assembly in November.

"This is to protect his dignity as a former prime minister," said Mohd Yusof Jamaludin, a spokesman for the 32 Umno branches.

In **Kuala Nerang**, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said Dr Mahathir should heed the call from the 32 Kubang Pasu Umno branches not to seek nomination to be a delegate to the Umno general assembly.

The division will hold its annual general meeting next month.

"Umno members in Kubang Pasu think that Dr Mahathir should not bring himself down by seeking nomination," he said.

"They think he would only tarnish his credibility as a statesman if he does."

Mahdzir said Dr Mahathir's standing as a leader with international repute would be tarnished if he failed in his bid to be a delegate.

He said this after launching the "Fly the Jalur Gemilang" campaign in conjunction with the Merdeka Day celebrations, yesterday.