

Some out to instigate Mahathir

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BALING: Umno Youth has no grudge against former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir, he said, and its members have been told not to show disrespect towards the former party leader.

Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin said Dr Mahathir might have sincere intentions in raising certain issues of late because he was speaking in the interest of the nation.

"However, I feel there are certain parties who are out to instigate and influence Dr Mahathir into launching his attacks against the current leadership," he said when opening the Baling Umno Youth delegates' conference at Kompleks Rakan Muda here yesterday.

He named former Pasir Mas MP Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali and Dr Mahathir's former political secretary Matthias Chang as among those who influenced Dr Mahathir.

Khairy also said he was sad that there were certain quarters who were out to jeopardise Abdullah's leadership.

"The Prime Minister has been in office

for only three years, so he should be given a chance to prove his leadership capabilities," he told the 800 delegates.

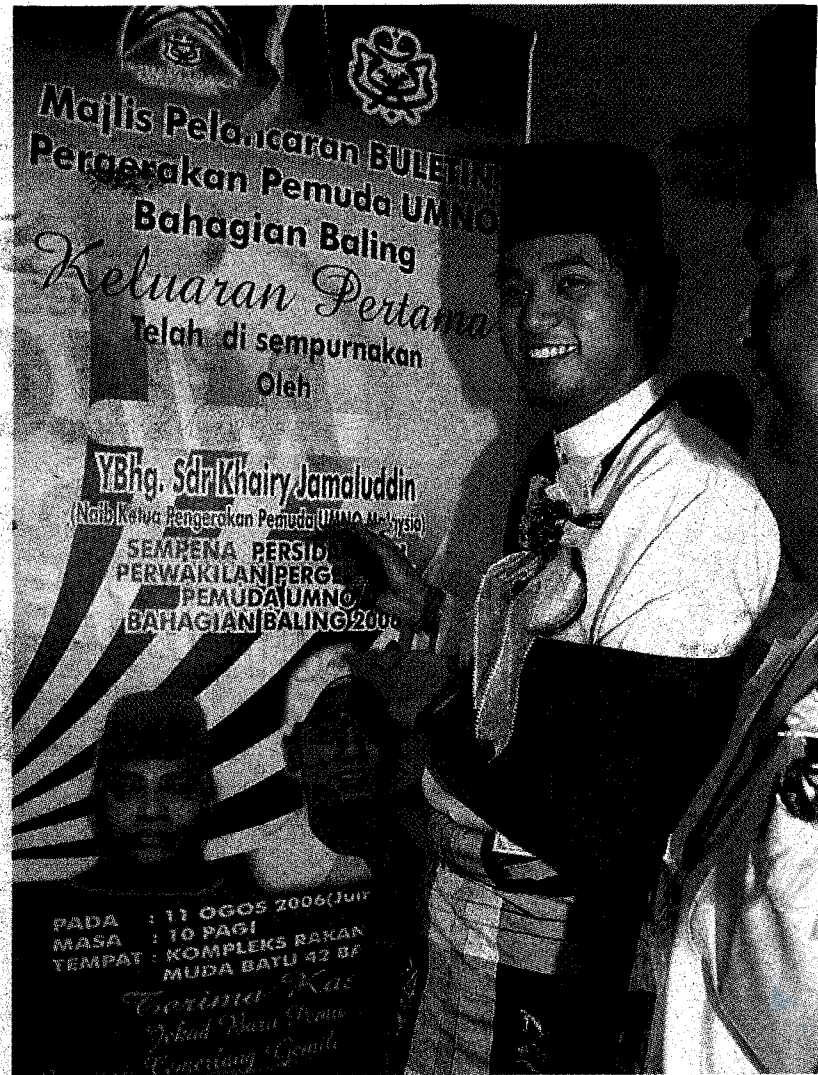
"Even though there are some people who claimed that Pak Lah was not the first choice as Prime Minister, he has been given the mandate by the people and the party."

Khairy also questioned why Dr Mahathir was being persistent in raising questions that had been answered "over and over again".

On Tuesday, Dr Mahathir was reported as asking during a question-and-answer session with the media how Khairy managed to acquire a RM9mil loan to buy a minor interest in financial services company ECM Libra Bhd late last year.

Khairy had said that the vendors of the shares had given him the loan.

Umno Youth also called on the Government to postpone the signing of the US-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement as a mark of protest against Israel's attacks in Lebanon.



OFFICIAL LAUNCH: Khairy signing a poster to launch the Baling Umno Youth Bulletin after opening the Baling Umno Youth delegates' meeting held at Kompleks Rakan Muda in Baling, Kedah, yesterday. Looking on is Putera Umno president and Baling Umno Youth chief Datuk Abdul Azeez Abdul Rahim.