

Dr M speaks at PJU Umno Youth event in his honour

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PETALING JAYA: The Petaling Jaya Utara Umno Youth division held a *JasaMu DiKenang* ceremony yesterday morning with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as their guest during which the former party president spoke at length on the party's struggles and current issues of concern to him.

After the ceremony ended, the PJU Umno Youth then start-

ed its second programme for the day - its annual meeting.

Division chief, senator Datuk Ikhwan Salim, opened the Youth meeting.

Youth chief Mohamad Azli Mohamed Saad said this was in line with the Umno supreme council directive that only supreme council members, Umno ministers and Mentris Besar be allowed to open the

divisional meetings.

In his speech at the *JasaMu DiKenang* ceremony earlier, Azli said he was touched by the support from his exco line-up to invite Dr Mahathir for the function.

"Dr Mahathir is our former Prime Minister, our former party president. He is our legend and a statesman whom we love," he said.

Also present at yesterday's ceremony was Padang Besar division chief Datuk Zahidi Zainol Abidin. He had invited Dr Mahathir to open the division meeting there on Aug 26 but had to withdraw the invitation after the supreme council's directive.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir has written a letter to all party members on the so-called ban

against him.

In the letter dated Aug 11, he said party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had stated that Umno divisions were free to decide whether to meet him (Dr Mahathir) or not.

"But two or three divisions and the Umno Youth movement that invited me have subsequently withdrawn their

invitations after the statement from the president.

"Maybe this means they are 'free' to make the decision to withdraw the invite. But they told me this was because they have been *tekan teruk* (badly pressured). So what freedom?" he said.

The letter is expected to be circulated to all three million Umno members.