

Division wants Dr M to quit advisory posts

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ALOR STAR: Kubang Pasu Umno division, which Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad led for almost 30 years, strongly supports a call from Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid for the former prime minister to relinquish his advisory posts to several government agencies.

Division deputy chairman Ahmad Zaini Japar said it was only appropriate for Dr Mahathir to do so considering he no longer supported the government of the day led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Kubang Pasu Umno strongly supports Mahdzir's call.

"Dr Mahathir can still comment on the government but he must do it discreetly, like a teacher advising a pupil," he told reporters after attending a Hari Raya open house, hosted by the division's secretary, Samsuddin Ahmad, in Changlun yesterday.

Ahmad Zaini said the division was still hopeful that Dr Mahathir would stop his personal attacks on the Prime Minister and the government.

"We are not giving up trying to talk to him to cease the attacks because we know Tun (Dr Mahathir).

"He is simply being exploited by others to attack Abdullah and the government."

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tions would have an adverse effect on Umno and the Barisan Nasional in the general election.

On Saturday, Mahdzir called on Dr Mahathir to cease being adviser to several government bodies, including Petronas, Proton and the Langkawi Development Authority, if he chose to continue criticising the Prime Minister.

Mahdzir also said Dr Mahathir's actions were embarrassing the people of Kedah and risked losing their respect for him as a statesman.