

Radzi: Stick to party rules when inviting VIPs

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PUTRAJAYA: Umno division chiefs are reminded to stick to the rules when inviting VIPs to officiate their division meetings.

Party secretary-general Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said the case of the Padang Besar division inviting Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed to open their meeting would be a breach of party discipline.

Division chief Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin made the invitation earlier this week to the former prime minister, saying that it was better for Umno to provide Dr Mahathir a platform to speak rather than giving the opportunity to the Opposition.

Radzi said he was disappointed with Zahidi for making the invitation and urged him not to go ahead with it.

Party rules state that only supreme council members, Menteris Besar, Umno ministers and division chiefs, are al-



Radzi says he is disappointed

lowed to speak at division meetings during a non-election year, as is this year.

"If Zahidi goes ahead he knows full well he will be breaching party rules. He has already shown the intention of breaking the rules.

"It's not a good example to other members. I'm very dis-

appointed with Zahidi because I am from Perlis. I hope he doesn't go through with it, as if he does, I cannot help him," Radzi, the MP for Kangar, told reporters at his office at the Home Affairs Ministry.

Radzi said Dr Mahathir should know the rules about inviting speakers to division meetings as he was the one who implemented it.

"This rule was made by Dr Mahathir himself and we are still following it."

On whether Umno members were allowed to attend functions where Dr Mahathir was speaking, Radzi said it was all right as long as the event was not organised by the Opposition.

"We will not stop members from attending something organised by Dr Mahathir as he is an Umno member. But if it is organised by the Opposition, no way."