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Kedah Umno all for Dr M's return

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ALOR STAR: Kedah Umno will not stand in the way of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad if he wishes to rejoin Umno and will welcome the man who led the party for 22 years.

"We hope this move by Dr Mahathir will help strengthen Umno," its liaison chief, Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, told Bernama.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday the former prime minister, who had announced in May that he was quitting the party, had agreed to rejoin Umno when they met on Saturday.

Kubang Pasu Umno chief Datuk Mohd Johari Baharom, who is deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Department, also said he did not have any problem accepting Dr Mahathir back.

"However, it is up to the supreme council to accept or turn down Dr Mahathir's application."

In Ipoh, supreme council member Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Dr Mahathir should be accepted back into the fold as this would strengthen the party. "As a former party president, we have to value him and his credibility. All grassroots members should receive him back into the party as his advice and guidance are needed."

Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan also welcomed Dr Mahathir's return, saying he was even willing to offer his Umno Rantau branch chief's post to the latter if he was interested.

"I am confident that his presence in the party would help to further strengthen and unite Umno," Hasan said after chairing the state executive council meeting at Wisma Negeri.