

Rifts, wives and rumour-mongers

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Musa Hitam emerged from the Umno Supreme Council meeting poking fun at rumours that there is a deep rift between them and delighting newsmen with an exchange of banter.

The Prime Minister was particularly in a light-hearted mood, saying with mock-seriousness: "I do not talk to Datuk Musa ..." and later, "Datuk Musa and Tengku Razaleigh are trying to topple me ..." to gales of laughter from council members and newsmen.

Datuk Musa himself said in a mock-conspiratorial voice: "I don't talk to him," and pointed to Dr Mahathir.

Asked to comment about rumours being spread about the economy, Dr Mahathir said in more serious vein: "I don't know. It's the newspapers which say this. Ask the newspapers which print this."

"But if we have proof that people do this with bad intentions, to cause confusion, then we will take action.

"But if people want to spread rumours which say that I have two wives, that I have two children from a marriage overseas, what can I do?"

And he added: "Go on. Keep on inventing stories. The price of stocks will go down, share (markets) will close down. You want to kill yourself, that's your own lookout."

A reporter then asked Dr Mahathir about a report in Singapore newspapers that Datuk Musa had submitted his resignation.

Dr Mahathir turned to Datuk Musa and asked "Have you?"

To this Datuk Musa said: "I am by his side..."

After the Press conference, Dr Mahathir and Datuk Musa walked out together, smiled and shook hands before departing.