

# Dr M not becoming a dictator: Abdullah

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TELUK INTAN, Sun. - Umno vice-president Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today dismissed allegations that the Prime Minister is becoming a dictator, saying it is not true, he makes decisions arbitrarily.

Datuk Abdullah, former Defence Minister, said he knows Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad personally as a leader and "I have never seen him exhibit any tendency of becoming a dictator."

He denied Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir made decisions without the unanimous agreement of his Cabinet colleagues.

In fact, several proposals made by the Prime Minister at Cabinet meetings were deferred or dropped because they did not get the agreement of Cabinet members, he said at a dialogue with the people at Kampung Sungai Tungku here.

Datuk Abdullah said, however, the Prime Minister was

acknowledged to be a forceful person, difficult to dissuade when putting across his views or arguments. But this was because the points he brought up were concrete and contained many good ideas.

On the Prime Minister's readiness to meet former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam for talks aimed at the reunification of the Malays, he said this should not be questioned by anyone.

## Unity

He said the Prime Minister's doors were always open to discussions to re-unite the Malays and he had never changed his mind about this.

Earlier in Butterworth, Datuk Abdullah pledged to work towards strengthening the party and maintaining unity among the Malays.

"I will continue to contribute

my services and efforts to uphold Umno's aspirations and goals regardless of the reactions of several quarters," he said.

Datuk Abdullah was speaking after attending a ceremony in which land titles were presented to 29 residents of Kampung Lahar Tiang.

He also welcomed the Prime Minister's willingness to meet and talk with Datuk Musa Hitam over the problem of Malay unity.

"This is a good sign towards uniting the Malays," he said.

Datuk Abdullah also called on the people not to support any anti-Umno groups out to create political chaos and destroy Malay unity.

"We should fight against these groups as they are a threat to our party's and country's stability," he said.

He said it was the responsibility of each and everyone in

Umno, from the leaders to the grassroot level, to ensure that the party remained strong and respected by all.