

Abdullah: Party chief a humble man

UMNO supreme council member Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has described party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a humble person.

"I have heard several times during Cabinet meetings where the Prime Minister had refused to allow buildings being named after him," he told reporters when met after the end of the assembly.

Abdullah said two universities, one in the United Kingdom and another in the United States had offered to name the Chairs after him but Dr Mahathir declined.

"That is what Dr Mahathir is, a humble man," he said, adding that the party president did not enjoy being praised.

Abdullah said party members who thought highly of Dr Mahathir should emulate him by showing they were willing to work hard and support the party.

He also said that the new speakers who took part in the debate of the motions over the last three days were impressive and had made preparations before speaking on behalf of their respective liaison committees.

Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said Dr Mahathir had said many times that he did want people to over-praise him, especially in front of others, because he was not comfortable with such a gesture.

He said it was proper for members to praise Umno for

its success and capability in developing the country.

"They (members) should not go overboard in their praise although their intention is good," he said.

Perlis Menteri Besar Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh said party members should avoid carrying out the "Brutus" act in giving a noble excuse to justify their wrongful act.

"I don't believe Dr Mahathir directed this statement (Brutus) at any one in particular," he said.

Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said the Government would have to build more schools especially in the urban areas before a single-session system could be implemented.

He said the single-session school was not possible now because it would affect religious education for Muslim students.

He said there was a problem in urban areas because shortage of classes has forced schools to extend morning classes into evening because of additional subjects.

"This has interrupted religious classes and caused concern among parents," he said.

Abdul Hamid said he agreed with Dr Mahathir's view that there was a need to ensure that Muslims were knowledgeable in Islam and to build their spiritual strength to face the demanding challenges brought about by the rapid global development.