

No plans to be senior minister, says Dr M

SUN 31 AUG 2001

PETALING JAYA. Thurs: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has no intention to become a senior minister or an adviser to his successor after he steps down as prime minister.

"He (my successor) will make his own decisions and I will have to keep my mouth shut," he said when asked by a guest at a luncheon forum today if he will insist his successor contin-

ues his policies after he steps down.

The luncheon forum and dialoguc was arranged by the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Malaysia at a resort here.

The guest also asked Mahathir how it can be that Singapore's senior minister, Lee Kuan Yew, despite sharing similar views on some issues, especially those concerning the West, is more

liked by them than he is.

"I consider myself a very nice man. Except I like to shoot off my mouth ... say things as I see them and I do not try to hide them as I was trained to be a doctor and I can't treat a patient with panadol when he has malaria," Mahathir replied.

He added that he often says nasty things and maybe this was why the West prefers Lee.