

Rais: I support Mahathir and Abdullah¹⁴

By TOH AN NEE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim today said he will fully support the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I will not support anyone who would challenge the two. But that is not to say that the right to contest is not there.

"It is up to them (party members) to consider the opinion or the advice of the supreme council," he said before attending a "Surgery 2000" convocation ceremony organised by Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia yesterday. *SUN 31/1/2000*

He was asked to comment on the issue of whether the top party posts should be contested.

Rais, also the MP for Je-

lebu, said he supports the present leadership "unreservedly" as experience has taught him that now is the time for unity and for resolving problems which beset Umno instead of "throwing in the spanner every time there is opportunity".

"I don't see others who could replace the double leadership but their rights are there. I am not saying that there aren't," he said.

Rais also emphasised the urgent need to develop a high degree of professionalism in the medical sector in view of increasing demand for doctors to give evidence in the court of law.

"The law demands a substantial amount of evidence from the medical sector in cases involving accidents and injuries, and invariably the doctors are called upon," he said.