

Pak Lah responds to Dr M's criticisms
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Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said he is working towards achieving his predecessor Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Vision 2020 goal.

Abdullah said this when asked to respond to Mahathir's scathing criticism of the prime minister in a recent interview with malaysiakini.

"We are on track of achieving the important objective of 2020 left by Tun (Mahathir). And that's what I am doing now," he told a press conference after officiating the 61st MIC general assembly in Kuala Lumpur.

However, Abdullah did not elaborate on the matter.

Mahathir had accused his handpicked successor of "going in the opposite direction" on matters that the two had agreed upon would be carried out.

"There may be changes in approaches, or even in policies, but the general policies of the party have to be carried out.

"What he has done is to go completely in the opposite direction. That was not something I expected," said the former premier, who stepped down in 2003.

Mahathir's remarks were the latest in a year-long running battle with Abdullah over allegations of corruption and the running of the country.

From the sluggish state of the economy to charges that Abdullah's family members were cashing in on his position, Mahathir has taken repeated jabs at his successor.

Interfaith meet not cancelled

In another development, the prime minister clarified that the Muslim-Christian interfaith conference scheduled to take place this week had not been cancelled but postponed.

The premier said he wanted to attend the conference but the dates were clashing with his schedule.

"I have an important role to play in the conference, I don't want it to be held here when I am not around. I had to postpone it to attend something immediate. We have to find another suitable date," he added.

The Building Bridges Global Interfaith Seminar was scheduled for May 7-11.

Thirty world-renowned Islamic and Christian scholars and theologians were to deliberate under the theme 'Humanity in Context: Christian and Muslim perspectives on being human'.

Yesterday, the Council of Churches of Malaysia is confused over the government's sudden

cancellation of a Muslim-Christian interfaith conference scheduled to take place this week.

The conference was to coincide with the first visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams to the Anglican Church of Malaysia. He was also slotted to chair the three-day conference.

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