

Dr M: When people cry you say 'it's OK, it's OK'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad today confirmed he did not get an apology from Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz during their brief meeting after the Merdeka parade yesterday.

"No, no she did not apologise," said the former prime minister, who appeared tickled that there

was so much interest in what transpired during the encounter.

"Yes she hugged me and everybody saw it but nothing happened," he said before launching an exhibition at the Pam Heritage in Jalan Tangsi, here, tonight.

When pressed further by reporters on whether Rafidah said sorry, Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Ali chuckled.

Below are some of his responses

to questions lobbed at him.

● On why Rafidah wept during their brief encounter?

"I don't know... you must ask her. I did not say much to her but when people cry you say 'it's OK, it's OK'."

● On why he gave her a pat on the shoulder?

"Well, it's part of the OK."

● On whether he considered the chapter over?

"I don't know. I have also said

that this is not a battle between me and the minister, it is about Proton and the APs. So the problem is the AP, not whether she apologises or does not apologise, hug or no hug, the problem is still the APs, because if we keep giving the APs and people keep on under declaring them we are cheating the Government.

"As far I am concerned, the problem of the AP has got to be

resolved."

● On whether he still considered Rafidah a friend?

"She was a minister in my former Cabinet."

● On what he felt after that hug?

"After she hugged me, no more feelings, lah."

● Was he feeling better now?

"I don't know. It's not a cure, I am having a cold."