

# Dr M agrees to meet mediator to resolve differences

KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to meet a mediator to clear the air on his relationship with the country's leadership, Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said yesterday.

He told Bernama that Dr Mahathir gave the nod when he met him at his residence here on Friday night.

"I told Dr Mahathir it is difficult for (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to meet him privately because Tun has shown his unhappiness with the Prime Minister."

Zainuddin said he told Dr Mahathir that it was vital for the mediator to meet Tun first in efforts to patch up his differ-

ences with Abdullah.

He said he gave the mediator's name to Dr Mahathir at the meeting.

"Dr Mahathir agreed to accept the mediator I have mentioned. He is a person loved by Tun."

Zainuddin said yesterday initiatives to resolve the differences between the former and present prime ministers were in line with the spirit and wishes of the Umno grassroots, members who were concerned over the current development.

Several Umno leaders and divisions nationwide have urged the Umno supreme council to resolve the differences between Abdullah and



Dr Mahathir quickly and amiably.

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Dr Mahathir launched stinging attacks against the current Government

against the Abdullah-led Government as he was unhappy, with several decisions made such as the scrapping of sever-

al projects started by him.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein has welcomed the idea of using a mediator.

"Sometimes it is spats like this that open our eyes and make us realise how important the country's stability is for the well-being of the nation," Hishammuddin said after flagging off participants at the Malay Association of Johor walkathon in Titiwangsa yesterday.

"Now people are more appreciative of what the country has, which is its political stability, and know that such spate could jeopardise it.

"So for me the fallout between Tun and Pak Lab did do us some good."