

Dr M was slightly overboard



Muhyiddin: 'Our worry is whether such a move will undermine political stability'

Muhyiddin: Former premier's action like washing dirty linen in public

PÖRI DICKSON: Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has described Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent criticisms of the Government as "slightly overboard".

"He likened the move to washing dirty linen in public and said it could cause anxiety and discontent among party members if allowed to continue.

The former prime minister's

latest criticisms were made at a dialogue with the *Malaysia Today* portal on Saturday that was also attended by op-

position leaders, reports *Bernama*.

"Our worry is whether such a move will undermine political stability and stability in Umno as well as cause prejudice against Pak Lah (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) as party president," he said here yesterday after opening a self-development seminar and "presenting excellence service awards to Veterinary Services Department staff members.

Muhyiddin, who is Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister, said people had

begun to ask whether engaging in open criticism was the tight and rational thing to do, given that Dr Mahathir was the former party president and former prime minister.

"The people and Umno members have begun to ask where Tun (Dr Mahathir) is headed whether he can stop or will he carry on," he said.

"What will happen to the party and country if this action prolongs and becomes a surge that causes problems for the country?"

Youth and Sports Minister

Datuk Azalina Othman said Dr Mahathir should not have used an opposition forum to criticise the Government.

She said it was wrong of him to have done so as he was a former prime minister and Umno president.

"It was shocking," she said. "Umno members should not use Opposition forums to raise such issues. This culture could bring instability to Umno."

Entrepreneurial and Cooperative Development Minister Datuk Sen Mohd Khaled Nordin said his colleagues were not

merely "*pak turut*" or "yes men" as claimed by Dr Mahathir.

"I did not sit in Tun Dr Mahathir's Cabinet, so I do not know how it was," he said.

"But under Pak Lah, decisions are made after views, opinions concerns and observations of Cabinet ministers are heard.

"That is why we Cabinet ministers feel compelled to defend Abdullah. It is because we are involved in the derision-making process and we know the implications.

"We are not just 'yes men'.