

# Minister lashes out at Dr M's ex-aide

BESUT: Datuk Seri Hishammudin Hussein yesterday took a swipe at Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's former political secretary for spreading lies about the Government.

"If he wants to spit at me, spit when I am still alive. That way I can punch him in the face," said the Umno Youth chief, referring to a recent dare by Matthias Chang.

"All the present leaders are fulfilling a responsibility and our positions are not permanent. We are answerable to our grandchildren and it is better to be unpopular than to fail in our responsibility.

"Matthias Chang and anyone

else can say anything in the Internet but only Umno members who have internal strength can evaluate what's right and what's wrong, and what's political."

Chang is one of Dr Mahathir's supporters who has criticised the Government for several of its policies and decisions. He was especially angry about the decision to abort the crooked bridge project. He also said that he would spit on the faces of government leaders who criticised Dr Mahathir.

Hishammuddin said the decision to abort the bridge was made by the Cabinet after weighing the op-

tions.

"We all know that in politics not everybody will agree with us. However, as a leader, we shoulder a great responsibility.

"I don't want my grandchildren to urinate on my grave.

"Enough is enough and I call on Umno members to remain united and to fully support the party leadership," he said when opening the Besut Umno Youth and Puteri meetings in Jertih.

On allegations against his deputy Khairy Jamaluddin on some websites, Hishammuddin said Umno Youth members should

have no doubt about his deputy.

"Khairy had said the rumours were malicious and slanderous. There was no proof whatsoever and we must have faith in him and defend him because we were the ones who elected him," he added.

He said another rumour was that Umno was preventing Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir from opening the party's divisional meetings.

"I categorically deny this. All Youth Exco members are allowed to open any delegates meetings and all divisional Youth ExcOs are allowed to invite anyone they please."