

'Dr M's criticisms hurting country'

MUAR: It is unusual for a former leader to dictate to the current Prime Minister how the country should be run.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said, as such, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticisms of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had tarnished the country's reputation in the eyes of the world.

He said Abdullah was carrying out his responsibilities in the way and style he thought fit based on the fundamentals built by Dr Mahathir himself.

It is, therefore, strange for Dr Mahathir to want to destroy what he had spent years to build.

Muhyiddin also said that some Umno members wanted to know why the party was practising double standards by not taking any action against the former party president for his criticisms against the present leadership.

To this, the Agriculture and Agro-based Industries Minister said that while any party member who flouted Umno's

constitution would face the music taking action against Dr Mahathir would not settle

the issue but would give rise to more problems.

He said the Government would, however, continue to explain to the people issues raised by Dr Mahathir.

The time, he said, would come when the people would understand what was right.

"Let him (Dr Mahathir) say what he wants to say.

"He will have to slow clown when people (start to) raise questions on what he had said." Muhyiddin said after opening the joint delegates' conference for the Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings of the Pagoh division here yesterday.

He also said neither the Government nor Umno leaders had any intention to call on Dr Mahathir to stop his criticisms.

"Since he started the attack, it would be up to him to stop," he said, adding that the former premier was aware of the impact of his actions.