

# Mahathir wants to topple PM — *says minister*

NST - 13/8/2006

**KUALA KANGSAR:** Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz has heard enough.

He believes that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants to topple the Prime Minister. He said he reached this conclusion based on information he received on conversations which the former prime minister had with some of his friends.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department also noted that Dr Mahathir had not refuted newspaper reports which said that he was more interested in sending Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi out of office than obtaining answers to his list of grievances.

"If he continues his actions to destroy Umno, to bring down the president, I will be at the forefront as

a warrior to defend the party," he said when opening the Umno Padang Rengas Youth, Wanita and Puteri delegates meetings.

There was no shortage of party leaders who lined up firmly behind Abdullah's leadership yesterday. Leading the way was Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Najib Razak. He said that all levels of the ruling party were rallying behind the PM.

"We are not supporting the Prime Minister because we have to. We are supporting him because we want to," he told reporters after opening the Rembau Umno division delegates meeting.

>>TURN TO PAGE 2, COL 2

## Time to take a stand, say leaders

□ FROM PAGE 1

Umno leaders have been careful not to attack Dr Mahathir despite his vitriolic remarks about the Government because of the stature he enjoys. But there appears

to be a growing feeling in the ruling party that his incessant attacks on Abdullah and the current leadership need to be rebuffed.

This is especially so since they note that what began as an exercise to obtain answers to some

questions has morphed into quite a different campaign.

Even the normally staid Datuk Mustapa Mohamed sounded the clarion call. He told delegates at the Ampang division meeting: "No one should try to undermine the

president. Pak Lah is being threatened. It is time to take a stand."

Still in fighting mode was Dr Mahathir. He has started sending letters to Umno rank-and-file to state his case against the administration.