

Adnan: Let Dr M have his say

KUANTAN: The Government cannot reply to every issue brought up by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

He said this was to protect national interest and due to the implications that might arise.

"In my opinion, Tun (Dr Mahathir) should be allowed to air his opinions or criticisms.

"However, he should consider doing it in a more polite and gentle manner.

"On our part, we should support the present leadership under Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi," he said here yesterday.

He was responding to Dr Mahathir's comments that he wanted answers to four issues concerning policies which the pre-

sent Government had ditched.

Adnan described the matter as "trivial" and that it "will not split the party".

"Both men should meet and talk it over so that it would not be prolonged," he said.

Using a "house" as an analogy, Adnan said Tunku Abdul Rahman had built a hut which had since being upgraded into a bungalow with scenic land-

scape by Dr Mahathir.

"Now, Abdullah is just making some minor renovations both interior and exterior to suit the changing times," he said.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the wing would leave it to the concerned parties to answer Dr Mahathir.

"If we continue to comment

on the matter, it will not end," he said in Putrajaya.

In Penang, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon pledged full support for Abdullah and has confidence in the premier's integrity and commitment to nation building.

"It is clear that since Abdullah took over as Prime Minister, he has maintained the overall national vision and poli-

cies established by Dr Mahathir," the state Barisan Nasional chairman said.

Puteri Umno in a statement said it had complete faith in Abdullah's administration.

"Puteri Umno is confident that every decision made is collective and taken in the nation's interest," it said, adding that Dr Mahathir would always be remembered as a nationalist.