

# Najib: PM's gesture shows sincerity

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's willingness to meet Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad despite being criticised harshly shows his sincerity, Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that the public, especially Umno members, appreciated his gesture.

"The time is right for the Prime Minister and Tun Dr Mahathir to meet as it is also the wish of the majority of Umno members that both leaders could meet and have a heart-to-heart talk," he said,

here yesterday.

Najib had earlier paid a courtesy call on Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont who is here on a one-day official visit.

Commenting further on the impending meeting between the two leaders, Najib said he was confident that all problems and dissatisfaction between the two could be voiced out in an amicable manner at the closed-door meeting.

"This matter cannot be resolved through public statements. If they can meet and have a heart-to-heart talk,

they can voice out everything in private and maybe it will be easier for them to explain whatever issues and the decisions made by the government," he said.

Najib, who is also Umno deputy president, said he and the party members hoped that there would be a significant change in the relationship between Abdullah and Dr Mahathir after the meeting.

"We hope there will be a change, but we have to wait and see what happens at the meeting," he said. — Bernama