

# 'I didn't say much, I wanted Tun to have his say'

**KEPALA BATAS:** For 30 minutes, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took questions on his meeting with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Below are excerpts from the Press conference.

**Q:** What happened at the meeting?

**A:** During my meeting with him, I gave him the opportunity to express whatever he was not comfortable about, not happy with. So that's what happened for one-and-a-half hours. There were times when he was talking that I really wanted to interrupt and debate with him because I did not agree with what he was saying.

But if I had done that then it would have taken a long time and in the end, Tun would not have had the chance to say everything to me. Then that would have been a problem. Then people would ask why I went and disturbed him. Tun wanted to tell me, so I listened-lah. But my attitude from the beginning was that I intended to give him the opportunity to say what he was unhappy about and I followed my plan.

There was no arguing, it was calm but I did not have the opportunity to speak. Tun said it was already two hours, so we had to stop. I didn't say anything.

**Q:** What was discussed?

**A:** First, he said that the country was becoming a police state. That I do not agree with. Second, he talked about this thing where Umno is now scared to give its opinions because everyone wants to obey me. Who is scared to give another opinion? I said all this was incorrect. Umno members feel comfortable under my leadership because they are relieved that they can speak. Democracy. This was brought about by Umno leaders themselves.

He touched a little on me forbidding him from going here and there. I did not issue any instructions.

**Q:** On his ministers Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin and Datuk Seri Rais Yatim attending Tun's open house in Seri Kembangan.

**A:** It's okay. It's not right for any party to say don't go to his house and don't go to that person's house. This attitude is in direct contrast with the Hari Raya spirit. If you don't want to go, then that's another thing. To forbid is not right.

**Q:** On the possibility of a second meeting with Tun.

**A:** We'll see. Everything is possible, and everything is not possible.

**Q:** On further explanations to matters brought up by Tun.

**A:** It will take time. Don't tell me I have to tell you.

**Q:** On whether this spat With Tun will be resolved.

**A:** I do not know, he *is* the one ... to me, I really understand that I made promises to the rakyat, many of them through the manifesto. I understand and know and I am implementing as much as I said I would implement. I also understand that at this time, we have already started many programmes under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, but these programmes will take some time to produce and show results.

I am confident, Insyallah, what is being developed now will, before the middle of 2007, show results, create job and business opportunities: for many contractors. sub-contractors.

**Q:** On Malaysia being a police state.

**A:** I would also like to add a little about police state. That is not fight, Malaysia is not a police slate.

I have no intention of making it a police state. We have sovereign laws and are governed by a democratic government.