

'Criticism of Abdullah has no credibility'

KUALA LUMPUR; Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticism of the Prime Minister has no credibility.

Umno Information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib added that the former prime minister should check his facts before calling Malaysia a police state.

"He has called Malaysia a police state. If it was true, many leaders, including opposition parties and non-governmental organisations, would have strongly opposed it by now," he said after a Lincah Martial Arts Association Hari Raya gathering here yesterday.

"Instead, they disagree with Tun's statement. Tell me where is his credibility?"

Dr Mahathir should stop his criticism, said Muhammad.

"This is not good for the country. It affects our country's good name. It also affects our nation's credibility and directly affects investments and

people's confidence in the country."

He said Dr Mahathir should know that Umno, other Barisan Nasional parties and the people fully supported Abdullah.

In George Town, the Penang Barisan Nasional has called on Dr Mahathir to reflect on his own leadership style when he was ruling the country before condemning the present leadership.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said Dr Mahathir had always cautioned people that freedom of speech did not mean an absolute right for anyone to make baseless allegations.

"People have always been free to express their opinions but it has to be done in a responsible manner.

"Dr Mahathir of all people should know this," he said after launching the Han Chiang College television and news centre.