

'People want focus on work'

MALAYSIANS know what they want and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's continued criticism of the government has not divided the people.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the people decide what they want and although some may be concerned with his differences with the former premier, most people are looking forward to development projects that would come on board by the middle of next year.

"People want me to concentrate on my work. That is what I am doing with my colleagues. So my focus is the Ninth Malaysia Plan and many of the projects will be implemented next year, bringing benefits to the people," he said, fielding ques-

tions from the international Press corps who are here to cover the commemorative summit of the 15th anniversary of Asean-China dialogue relations.

Asked whether the issue of Dr Mahathir would be brought up during the Umno supreme council meeting on Thursday, he said: "I am open to discussing anything which is important to Umno. But I have to check with the Umno secretary-general (Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad) on the agenda".

When asked whether there was a recommendation for Dr Mahathir's removal from Umno, he said he was not aware of the details on the agenda.

When a reporter reminded him that yesterday was his

third anniversary in office and whether he was satisfied with his track record, Abdullah said there was much more that needed to be done for the people and the country.

He said some projects under the Eighth Malaysia Plan had to be completed while 9MP projects were getting on board.

"We are not lying idle. We are working hard to bring projects that would benefit the people. I am grateful to the many people who have supported me all this while."

He also welcomed the announcement by Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao that China was ready to sign the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone treaty. Abdullah arrived at the Subang airport last night after the summit.