

# Abdullah: Dr M can go on saying what he wants

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday he won't try to muzzle his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, or sack him as adviser to the country's biggest firms, for trying to undermine his leadership.

"Let him be there. And let him talk, and say what he wants to say," Abdullah said in an interview here.

During the past few months, Dr Mahathir has called on Abdullah to resign, accusing him of mismanaging the economy,

and of allowing nepotism.

"I think we must listen. We do not know how much more he wants to say.

"He can go on... It does not affect my position," said Abdullah, who is in Islamabad for a three-day meet-

ing of the World Islamic Economic Forum.

The Umno supreme council said last Thursday that Dr Mahathir could remain an adviser to national oil company Petronas and car maker Proton.

"Some people may think it is awkward, but I am not taking the stand to deprive him of that position," Abdullah said.

"He can resign any time. If we want to ask him to leave, we can also ask him to leave."—Reuters