

MB: Pak Lah a patient man

GRIK: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will act at the right time against Tun Dr Mahathir Mahathir - who continues to be at loggerheads with the Prime Minister over the country's administration.

Saying this, Umno supreme council, member Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali added: "The prime minister is a firm man. But, at the same time, he has displayed a true Asian

and Malay character, which is, to always respect the elderly.

"He will take action (against Dr Mahathir). But, maybe, the time has yet to come. He can still be patient," Tajol Rosli told reporters at a Hari Raya gathering jointly hosted by state assemblymen Datuk Hasbullah Othman (Temenggor) and Toh Shah Bandar Termizi Idris (Kenering) here yesterday.

The Perak Mentri Besar was

commenting on the decision by the Umno supreme council on Thursday to ignore calls by some quarters in the party who wanted Dr Mahathir removed as advisor in several government agencies, including Proton and Petronas.

Tajol Rosli, who is also Perak Umno chief, said those who are not happy with the decision should remember that the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition

had handsomely won the 2004 general election on Abdullah's public image.

He said if Abdullah chose to act harshly against his predecessor, it would erode the people's perception of the prime minister.

When told that some Umno members believed that Dr Mahathir's criticisms were actually aimed at Abdullah's son-in-law, Umno Youth de-

puty chief Khairy Jamaluddin, Tajol Rosli said:

"Tun Mahathir must also be firm. If he is unhappy with one person, he cannot be angry with another person."

On Khairy, the menteri besar said: "From what I know, he is a smart and knowledgeable person.

All eyes and ears on the Tun issue - P22