

# Dr M providing checks and balances, says son

SERI KEMBANGAN: Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir has defended his father's action to continue criticising the Prime Minister, saying that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is merely repeating what he has been saying all along.

Mokhzani said the meeting between Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Sunday was "not kiss and make up, or reconciliation" talks.

Mubarak (the organisation of ex-Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen) had initiated the meeting, with Mokhzani also playing a part.

"People asked what he raised at the meeting and he told them, on Sunday and at another press conference on Monday," said Mokhzani who was at Dr Mahathir's Hari Raya

open house here yesterday.

He reiterated that the meeting was not a dialogue or discussion, but an opportunity for Dr Mahathir to convey directly the issues he was very concerned with to Abdullah.

"Everyone was talking (through the media) the issues he raised, including the ministers but Pak Lah kept, what some people called, his elegant silence. Resolving this issue required both to meet," he said.

To a question, he said Dr Mahathir did not discuss with family members what he would raise at the meeting with Abdullah.

On the possibility of another meeting between the two, he said that if it would lead to further discussions on the issues and responses to them, there was no reason for both leaders

nor to meet again.

"It is not a lost cause, it is something they should work for," said Mokhzani, who felt that his father's views on matters was like a system of "check and balance."

The former president of the Senate, Tan Sri Michael Chen, likened Dr Mahathir's criticism against Abdullah and his administration to that of a father who had spent years establishing an empire.

"He has stepped down as prime minister but if he offers constructive and positive feedback and suggestions, it is acceptable," he added.

Chen said he believed Abdullah and Dr Mahathir both hoped for the best for the country and the people.

"Please give them time," he stressed.