

MP: Focus on the big picture but heed Dr M's warnings

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DATUK Zaid Ibrahim (BN-Kota Baru) said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should not become the latest victim of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Saying Dr Mahathir's record as a leader was "strong and unchallengeable", the backbencher added:

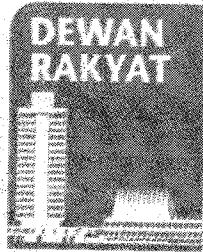
"It is clear ... if he (Dr Mahathir) was a footballer he would be a very fast striker."

Outlining what he called the former prime minister's record of "doing away" with past prime ministers or Umno leaders, he said:

"In 1969, the country's first prime minister had to withdraw due to his pressure, in 1987 Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had to withdraw ... Hussein Onn also left office because of him. One does not want to see Abdullah Ahmad Badawi become his latest victim."

Zaid said the government should not lose focus and be led off on a tangent by the criticism by Dr Mahathir. He said getting Dr Mahathir to shut up would not resolve anything.

"The government should instead focus on the bigger picture and not get swayed by petty issues. We should heed



■ Reports by
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his warning and criticisms. We can't shut him (Dr Mahathir) up as he has the right to speak," he said while debating the Supply Bill 2007.

"The way to overcome his accusations is to reform the Mahathirism way (the way things were done during the Mahathir era)."

Zaid said there appeared to be a clash "between Mahathirism, which is all about power, and the Islam Hadhari of Pak Lah".

"Now it seems like there is no direction. Dr Mahathir not being elected (as a delegate to the Umno assembly) is a small thing. What is more important

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Zaid



is where we are heading as a nation."

Earlier, while debating the Supply Bill 2007, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (BN-Gua Musang) called on the government to lead and "be firm,

brave and show political will".

He said the public felt that despite talk of a change in leadership style based on openness, contracts and projects were being awarded based on who one knew rather

than on merit.

He said once, the country was known to chide "rent seekers", but of late this kind of lament had stopped as "we are seen as producing rent seekers in new forms".