

Focus on nation, MP urges Govt

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SHUTTING up Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not solve anything. The Government should instead focus on the bigger picture and not get side-tracked by petty issues, said Datuk Zaid Ibrahim (BN - Kota Baru).

"We should heed his warning and criticisms. We can't shut him (Dr Mahathir) up as he has the right to speak. The way to overcome his accusations is to reform the Mahathirism way," he said when debating the 2007 Budget.

"There appears to be a clash between Mahathirism, which is all about power, and the Islam Hadhari of Pak Lah (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi).

"Now it seems like there is no direction.

"Dr Mahathir not being elected is a small thing. The spat between him and Pak Lah is also no big deal. What is more important is where we are heading as a nation.

"Our headlines are filled with stories on the alleged RM200 bribe (in the

Kubang Pasu Umno division election), Datuk K and Datuk R's weddings. I am worried with the current attitude."

Zaid was not only critical of the past administration but also the present one.

"We heard many times about the paradigm shift and thinking outside the box. Now is the time," he said.

"Even MPs have raised issues that many things are still not implemented such as the National Integrity Plan."

Zaid said Dr Mahathir had a record of successfully firing or kicking out someone if he wanted to.

"If Dr Mahathir is a footballer, then he is a fast striker. We don't want Abdullah to be his next victim," he added.

Zaid said with more judicial freedom now there was nothing wrong in having a judicial review (of the Tun Salleh Abas case).

"The families of the other judges (who were allegedly unfairly removed) are still around. They are not asking for a reinstatement or extra pension. They just want their names to be cleared."