

Adnan: Dr M listening to frustrated people

■ By **Shahrul Sayuthi**

news@nst.com.my

KUANTAN: After weeks of restrained comments, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob finally launched a blistering verbal attack on Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

The last straw for Adnan was a recent statement by the former prime minister which suggested that his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi may have sold the country's interests to foreigners.

"I felt a mixture of anger and sadness when I read the report (on the statement)," he said while delivering his opening address at a gathering of civil servants attended by Abdullah at the Silver Jubilee Hall here yesterday. "How can anyone in their right mind think that it is so easy to sell off this country?"

Adnan said such an outrageous statement could only mean that Dr Mahathir had lost his ability to differentiate between facts and malicious slander.



Adnan says Dr Mahathir being instigated

"Tun Pr Mahathir has destroyed himself by believing in people like (Datuk) Ibrahim Ali and Dollah Kok Lanas (former New Straits Times Press group editor-in-chief Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad). He should not have let himself be influenced by these frustrated people."

Adnan said despite his stature as a statesman, Dr Mahathir had lost his bearing when he launched a personal

attack against Abdullah.

"It makes me sad to see him letting those *kutu-kutu* (bad hats) instigate him to say all those things about Pak Lah."

Admitting that he is still an admirer of Dr Mahathir for his past contributions to the country, Adnan nonetheless said he could no longer tolerate such a personal attack against Abdullah.

Praising Abdullah for his "sincere and frank" disclosures in a recent television interview, Adnan described the Prime Minister as a people-friendly leader with a "clear conscience".

He also called for other detractors of the present administration to give it more time to prove its capabilities.

"Pak Lah has been in power for just over two years. He needs time to adjust things.

"Can't they see this? If let's say after five years and things are still not moving, then I myself will question him about it."