

Pak Lah on his son-in-law

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Khairy not my adviser



Khairy: Former aide to Pak Lah and now deputy Umno Youth chief

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PUTRAJAYA: The Prime Minister broke his silence yesterday on what observers regard as a politically sensitive issue – the role of Khairy Jamaluddin in the administration of the Government.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said his 31-year-old son-in-law was not his adviser.

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He said that while Khairy, like other parties, had expressed his views on various matters, he, as Prime Minister, had the sole responsibility of deciding what was best for the people.

"My son-in-law is not an adviser. He used to work with me. As my subordinate, obviously he was involved in preparing analyses and giving his opinion on many things," he said after chairing the 100th meeting of Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers at the Prime Minister's Office here yesterday.

"He quit because he was aware that many people were complaining. He is no longer involved. Why are people making accusations?"

Khairy, who is Umno Youth deputy chief, has been the subject of criticism following allegations that his relationship to Abdullah enabled him to influence the Prime Minister.

He was special officer to Abdullah, who was then Deputy Prime Minister, for four years. When Abdullah became Prime Minister, Khairy was his deputy principal private secre-

tary II until May 2004.

Abdullah said he would follow Khairy's opinions and on some matters in his capacity as the number two in the movement.

"That is all. Everybody tells me. Everybody wants to be the Prime Minister," he said.

"No prime minister is involved in efforts to influence the Prime Minister from those who contract."

However, Abdullah stressed that he made his own decisions based on what he thought best for the people and



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