

'NST decision is PM's right'

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SHAH ALAM, Fri. — Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's decision not to take action against the *New Straits Times* for publishing a comic strip linked to the Prophet Muhammad caricatures is the prime minister's right, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Saying that he had given his views on the issue, the former prime minister said the Prime Minister's decision was based on his assessment and view.

"That's his right, the Prime Minister's right, his assessment and view," he said after giving a talk entitled "Human Capital Development from Malaysia's Perspective" at the Young Leaders' Convention 2006, here.

Abdullah said in Kepala Batas today that

no action would be taken against the NST after its open apology for publishing the comic strip. He described the issue as over after the newspaper expressed regret over what had happened and apologised openly.

Dr Mahathir was among the leaders who had expressed regret over NST's action.

Asked to comment on RTM airing a footage related to the offensive caricatures of the Prophet in its Mandarin news segment recently as exposed by the NST, Dr Mahathir reiterated his call for the person responsible for airing the footage to be suspended from duty for a certain period.

"RTM should take action. Action should be taken against the officer responsible." — Bernama