

'Dr M not out to destroy country'

The Star - 21/12/2006

THE Government believes that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has no intention to destroy the country, Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek said.

"We have heard him and now we know what he wants and does not want," he told Senator Dr Mohd Puad Zarkashi.

Ahmad Shabery said the Government was always open to criticisms.

However, this does not mean that there would be instability of politics and economy in the country.

"This is how we go through changes, by accepting criticisms and various opinions," he said.

THE Asean Transboundary Haze Pollution Agreement will be adopted at the coming Asean Summit, said Foreign Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

He said the agreement, which was supposed to be adopted at the summit in Cebu this month, was expected to be adopted by January next year.

While replying to questions from Senators Ahmad Husin, Datuk Seri Empiang Jabu and Tan Bon You, Ahmad Shabery said the Indonesian President had written to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the matter.

"The President gave his full

commitment to the Prime Minister to ratify the agreement as soon as possible," he said.

He also said the ministry had sent a Diplomatic Note to the Indonesian government to state its stand on the negative effects of haze on Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore.

"The government has taken several measures to tackle the issue of haze through bilateral and various other ties.

"The Indonesian government had also held an emergency meeting, the Sub-Regional Environment Ministerial level meeting on Oct 13," he said.

Ahmad Shabery said the

meeting had resulted in the establishment of a committee to monitor the implementation of long-term and short-term measures to overcome the haze issue.