

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 21/05/2008

Dr M'S CAMPAIGN TO TOPPLE THE PRIME MINISTER

STAYING TRUE

Umno MPs pledge allegiance to Abdullah. No exodus from party

LAWMAKERS from Umno closed ranks behind Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday, ignoring Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to quit the party.

"Nobody is moving out of Umno... none of us is leaving Umno," Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said after the meeting Abdullah had with 71 of the 79 Umno MPs at Parliament House.

'POLITICAL BLACKMAIL'

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz criticised Dr Mahathir's move, saying it amounted to blackmail.

"Nobody, no matter how big he is, should use dirty tactics to bring down somebody who is democratically elected. That's blackmailing the party.

"This is a test of faith for Umno lawmakers and none is planning to abandon the party. This will only strengthen our resolve.

"To the MPs, Tun Dr Mahathir quitting is not an issue. No individual is more important than the party."

SNAP ELECTION

"A fresh general election will only be necessary if there are mass defections. Dr Mahathir's action does not affect the composition of the Dewan Rakyat at all," Nazri said...



Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Deputy Speaker Datuk Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (left) meeting representatives from Sarawak at Parliament House yesterday.



THE PAS MAN
WHO GOT
MAHATHIR
TO QUIT UMNO

>> P6



Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir talking to reporters.

MUKHRIZ DEFIES DAD

DATUK Mukhriz Mahathir, who is vying for the post of Umno Youth chief, yesterday refused to heed his father's call for members to quit the party to pressure the prime minister to step down.

"I will not be quitting the party. I will criticise from within Umno," said Mukhriz, who is the Jerlun MP.

Dr Mahathir announced on Monday that he had resigned as an Umno member with immediate effect, together with his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.