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MP: Dr M can explain his actions in court

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A BACKBENCHER has suggested that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed answer in court whether he has abused his power when he was the Prime Minister for 22 years.

Datuk Seri Abdul Ghapur Salleh (BN - Kalabakan) said the people wanted to know that as well and Dr Mahathir may also be willing to reveal.

"He can explain the actions and measures taken by him when he was the Prime Minister," he said.

Abdul Ghapur said this showed that the Government had nothing to hide.

He also hit out at the Bar Council for having a forum to discuss the social contract last week, saying that the privileges of the Malays should not be questioned.

Padang Besar MP Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said the system of "who knows who and not who knows what" would soon cause many companies to go bust.

He said this is because the companies are unable to solve their financial problems.

Currently, he said, the trend was that in order to solve a problem one has to get the right person to help.

Azmi received thumping response from the Opposition bench when he said this.

He went on to say that as someone who was a minister before, he even saw companies being sabotaged for not knowing the right person to go to. Because of this, he said many companies may collapse.

"Looking back, we have many who fell in the 80s. Then you see new ones rising in early 90s and some failing after 97," he said while debating on the Mid-Term Review of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

Azmi said the government's decision to restructure oil subsidies was a brave one.

"Before this, we regarded ourselves as competitive. It was actually a distorted view. We never realised that many industries were supported by subsidies in various forms. After taking away the subsidies, are we still that competitive?" he asked.