

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

THE SUN

DATE: 02/05/2008

Meet blogger Che Det aka Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has jumped onto the bloggers' bandwagon with a cyberspace column called *chedet.com*.

Che Det, as Mahathir is fondly called by his family and friends, was also the name he used when writing in the newspapers a long time ago.

In his first entry titled *The Appointment of Judges*, posted at 1.27am yesterday, Mahathir raised questions over Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's recent announcement that a commission would be established to choose judges.

He said no details have been provided on how the commission would operate.

"Would the commission actually appoint the judges or would it only recommend the names for the PM to approve or would the commission recommend directly to the (Yang di-Pertuan) Agong for him to exercise his prerogative?" he asked.

"Or would the (Yang di-Pertuan) Agong require the approval of the Rulers Conference? Or would the Conference of Rulers be merely consulted as is done now? Or would they be able to reject the candidates, and ask for new candidates or name new candidates of their choice?"

"It would be interesting to know the full details of the procedures, above all with regard to the role of the PM.

"The government does not have the necessary two-thirds majority. By itself it will not be able

to change the manner with which the judges are chosen. It can only do so if the Opposition supports it by at least nine votes.

"Is the government proposing to work with the Opposition on this issue, and so display its weakness? Will there be a *quid pro quo*, a bargain with the Opposition? It would be interesting to see how the PM proposes to deal with this," he wrote.

Meanwhile, comments posted by readers welcomed the blog and hoped it could serve as a platform for Mahathir to air his views on various matters, including political developments. There were also some who disagreed with Mahathir and questioned why it was wrong for the ruling party to work with the Opposition.

In his preface, Mahathir said the blog was dedicated to publishing his writings and welcomed reproductions or references to his writings with the condition that they were credited to *chedet.com*.

He also said comments and feedback with names or pseudonyms were welcome but anonymous postings and those containing profanities and obscenities would be rejected.



DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD