

# PM took the right stance

NST-29/6/2006

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has adopted the right response — see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil — to the recent tirade against him by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, to all intents and purposes, has no business telling others how to run the country. The present Government does not owe any explanation to him in the way things are being done.

If Dr Mahathir feels that he has to be heard then he should stand as a candidate in the next elections.

Criticism is the outcome of a defence against one's own inferiority. Critics find things wrong with others because they themselves fail to do what is right.

NOEL F. D'OLIVEIRO  
Iph

## End criticism

I AGREE with Yusuf Mohd Khalid's sentiments ("Stop this public slanging, please" — NST, June 27) as it will not lead to anything positive or useful.

There is so much to be done in the country right now to ensure the economy continues to grow and development projects are implemented, especially those in the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

This should be our priority and let us not get distracted by this endless debate.

Time and resources are too

precious for us to waste in this exercise.

I would urge Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, for whom we all have the highest respect and esteem for what he has done for this country, to stop criticising the Government and for him to give full support to what the present Government is doing for the well-being of the rakyat. After all, this is the same Government that he used to lead for 22 years.

We also realise that Dr Mahathir is a man of extremely strong will and high convictions.

We have seen how this was manifested in his 22-year rule as Prime Minister. And we lauded and supported him for that, especially in the international arena.

On the other hand, as a senior and elder statesman, he should also be magnanimous to accept the fact that he might have erred in some of the decisions he made previously, especially after being in power for so long.

During such a long period, it is unlikely that the decisions he made, especially the major ones, could be right all the time. It would be too presumptuous of him to do that.

He must also accept that situations and circumstances can change and that this requires a reversal of what was decided earlier. This, he has to accept with an open mind.

NORAMTAZ ABDULLAH  
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## Bitter taste

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent criticism of the policies and personalities in the present Government is creating unrest and discord.

This does not augur well for the people of Malaysia as it will inevitably leave a very bitter aftertaste in the mouth.

I am sure that a seasoned politician like Dr Mahathir must understand and foresee the eventual repercussions arising from this debate.

For sure, potential investors might be wary of investing in Malaysia in the light of what they think is an "unstable political climate".

Current or existing investors would now think twice whether to re-invest and would consider re-diversifying their concerns elsewhere.

Dr Mahathir has also given ammunition to the local Opposition parties.

Since Dr Mahathir has handed over the reins of the prime ministership to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi with the promise that he would not interfere with domestic policies, he should honour the promise.

M.Z.A.  
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## Anger won't do

IT is worrying that the differences between Tun Dr Ma-

hathir Mohamad and the current leadership have spilled into the open.

Dr Mahathir, a much respected and sought-after elder statesman, has many admirers locally and abroad.

His current global role of promoting peace and peaceful solutions is admired and needed in a world full of conflict where world leaders are looking for new perspectives to tackle burdens.

The way I see it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, with his own style, will appreciate the support of the rakyat, including Dr Mahathir, to enable him to pilot the nation towards Vision 2020.

Tun Mahathir may have perceived that he has been wronged by the current leadership.

However, he should be patient and not resort to sudden outbursts of anger and put-downs as these will not serve him well.

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## Hearing him out

I ATTENDED Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's talk-cum-dialogue in Hulu Klang on Saturday because I, and most of the 500 people there, were interested to hear from the horse's mouth the issues raised by the former prime minister.

The function was organised by non-governmental organisa-

tions and Malaysia-today.com. When I arrived at the club, a big crowd was already there.

They included Pas and Keadilan leaders, former Cabinet ministers, former deputy ministers, several veteran Umno leaders, Muslim scholars, academicians and journalists.

Being an Umno member for the last 35 years, I realised that about 70 per cent of the audience were Umno members. Thus, it was not an Opposition-led function.

They (the Opposition) were already there and Dr Mahathir was invited by the organisers and not by the Opposition.

During tea break, Dr Mahathir was ushered to the holding room and some Opposition politicians sat around him.

It would have been impolite to chase them away just because they were Opposition politicians.

Yes, we listened to what Dr Mahathir had to say about the aborted bridge to replace the Causeway, the sale of MV Agusta by the new Proton management for €1, the cancellation of the double-track railway project and so-called mega projects started under his administration.

Whether we are satisfied or not is not the issue here but we simply wanted to hear from him, in person, and not through the media.

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