

Khaled: Malaysians have faith in Abdullah's administration

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysians have faith in Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's handling of government administration and policies despite Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reservations.

Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Minister Datuk Mohamed Khaled Nordin said yesterday that the people realised that what the Prime Minister was doing was in their best interest.

This contradicted the former Prime Minister's assumption that many were dissatisfied with the Government's decision to revert his plans and policies.

Khaled said the solid support from the grassroots, as conveyed to their respective Members of Parliament, showed that the people had confidence in Abdullah's leadership.

Singling out the Government's move to scrap the project to build a new bridge across the Straits of Tebrau, he said the majority of the people of Johor had no qualms with the decision.

"I am from Johor too. My constituents agree with the Government. Feedback from other divisionals also indicates that the majority concur with the Government in the matter.

"You can ask (all Johor MPs), Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Shahrir Samad (Johor Baru MP) and they will tell you the same.

"There are, of course, people who want it (the bridge) but most realise, without it, life does not end," the Pasir Gudang MP said, adding it was wrong for Dr Mahathir to assume that the people of Johor wanted the bridge.

Khaled was speaking to reporters after his Ministry's Excellent Service

What they say...



Malacca Chief Minister and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Ali Rustam:

I beg him, please don't get involved with the Opposition because Umno and the people at large still respect you. Give the present Prime Minister and us a chance to do our work.

Umno Youth information chief Azimi Daim, on behalf of the movement:

The public sees Tun colluding with individuals whose objectives are to crush Umno.

This cannot be accepted by Umno members.

Tun has asked many questions. Answers and explanations have been given. The question now is whether Tun is interested in accepting the explanations.



awards presentation. He had been asked if the Cabinet was confident it had the support of the people, especially after Dr Mahathir's severe criticism of its decisions.

On Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz's censure of Dr Mahathir for criticising the Government, he said Nazri was merely expressing his frustrations.

"We cannot accept Dr Mahathir's

attack on the Prime Minister's leadership or the former PM being in cahoots with the Opposition."

Khaled, also an Umno supreme council member, said the Opposition was trying to "cash in on" Dr Mahathir's dissatisfaction with Abdullah.

He said it was odd that the same Opposition that had vilified Dr Mahathir was now cosying up to him.