

Take Dr M's criticisms in right spirit, party urged

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KOTA BARU: Take the criticisms by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the right spirit, Kelantan Umno has urged party members.

"Taken in the right spirit, it can be seen as a normal exchange of views and the democratic right of Dr Mahathir to air his opinions," said state party chief Datuk Seri Annuar Musa.

"In the past, criticisms had enriched and empowered Umno," he told reporters at Bukit Marak, near here, yesterday.

Citing an example, Annuar said during the party crises in 1987, 49% of the party support was for (Gua Musang MP) Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. Yet, the party emerged stronger.

Every leader is entitled to their opi-

nions and the former premier had a right to express his, said Annuar.

"I supported Dr Mahathir, who appointed me as a minister although many felt I was unqualified.

"I love Dr Mahathir but I love the party more."

Meanwhile Gerakan has advised its members not to get involved or comment on the feud between the former and current prime ministers.

"It's best that Gerakan stays out and not add to the fire. We should instead concentrate on the country's economy," party president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said last night.

He said the feud was just a political hiccup, which was normal in developing countries.