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Peacemaker

Zam: Mediator will try to bring Pak Lah and Dr M together

SUNGAI PETANI: An Umno veteran who is well respected by both the Prime Minister and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad could mediate in the bitter spat between the two.

Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said he had suggested the name of the veteran, who is "loved by Dr Mahathir and respected by

Abdullah", to persuade them to end the feud.

"I met Tun (Dr Mahathir) a few days ago and heard what he had to say. I also met Pak Lah before he flew off on his holiday and proposed that the third person be present during the meeting," he said.

"Pak Lah was very receptive to the idea and has

agreed to the person I have suggested. I have also met the veteran in question."

He was speaking to reporters after a briefing yesterday on the proposed RM1mil public library at the Bedong-Tanjung Dawai road in Merbok.

However, Zainuddin said, knowing Dr

> TURN TO PAGE 4



Help to end crisis, Tajol Rosli urges party veterans

● FROM PAGE 1

Mahathir's brash approach, he might scoff at the idea of a "third person" and would prefer to face Abdullah alone.

"Pak Lah, on the other hand, is a peace-loving leader who is open to the idea of reconciliation, as he knows the feud does not augur well for the party or the country's economy," he added.

Abdullah is now in Perth with his family until July 14, while Dr Mahathir is holidaying in Turkey and Greece.

In Kota Baru, Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Awang Adek Husin said the quarrel should not affect the flow of investments.

"They (investors) are familiar with the Malaysian economy," he told reporters after the Kelantan Umno management committee meeting.

He said the "so-called dispute" between Dr Mahathir and the ministers would not affect the economy as the factors dictating the economy were the stock movements on Bursa Malaysia, trade balances and other economic factors.

On Umno, he said the issues faced by the party during Dr Mahathir's era were more challenging.

These included the amending of the Constitution to reduce the powers of the rulers and the sacking of Datuk Seri

Anwar Ibrahim from the party and Government.

In Ipoh, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Tajol Rosli Ghazali urged veterans to act as mediators to help end the crisis.

He cited a Malay proverb "*carik-carik bulu ayam, bertaut juga akhirnya*" (unity will prevail after any quarrel) to illustrate the roles that veterans should be taking.

"We urge those close to Pak Lah or Tun to continuously *urut* (stroke) both of them so that everything can go back to what it was," he said when opening the Malaysia Former Elected Representatives Council Perak Branch

annual general meeting yesterday.

Tajol Rosli also said he believed the differences between the two could be easily resolved, provided there was no external interference.

He likened the rift as "a storm in a teacup", and said the stormy weather could subside if party members played their roles in preventing matters from getting worse.

Asked to comment on Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz's remarks suggesting that Dr Mahathir be sacked from the party, Tajol Rosli replied:

"That is his style. Tun used to praise Nazri (for having such a trait)."