

# No need for mediator, says Kedah MB

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**SUNGAI PETANI:** Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid has questioned the need for a mediator to end the rift between Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, claiming that both leaders were not having a "personal clash".

"Are the two leaders having a personal clash for there to be a third party roped in to resolve the matter?"

"Both leaders are just having a difference in opinion, which I personally feel does not warrant the involvement of a third party.

"Why do we need a third party to act as a champion?" he asked during a visit to the new Sultan Abdul Halim Hospital here yesterday.

Mahdzir, who was Abdullah's former political secretary, was asked to comment on the

statement by Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin that an Umno veteran who was "loved by Dr Mahathir and respected by Abdullah" would be roped in to persuade them to end the feud.

However, Mahdzir, who is Kedah Umno chief, said he welcomed efforts to improve the relationship between both leaders, which would augur well for the nation.

On Saturday, Zainuddin said he had met Dr Mahathir and Abdullah to suggest that a mediator be selected to persuade the two of them to "end the feud".

Zainuddin also said he met Abdullah before the Prime Minister left for Australia and that Abdullah was receptive to the idea and had agreed to the person suggested by him.

The minister also said he had met the veteran in question, who had agreed to act as mediator.