

Tajol: Dr M should not attack Abdullah in public

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JELI: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad should refrain from hitting out at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in public as it is tantamount to embarrassing the latter.

The former premier should voice his disagreements with Abdullah's policies in private, in a four-eyed meeting between the two, Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli

Ghazali said.

"It is akin to parents scolding their child. How would a child feel if his parents scolded him in public? I posed this question to a Malaysian studying in Melbourne recently," he said.

"She answered that she would feel offended or ashamed. Earlier, she had questioned why there was no democracy in

the country."

Similarly, it is natural for Abdullah to feel slighted by Dr Mahathir's public attacks which have put the two in the global spotlight, Tajol said after opening the Jeli Umno division delegates conference here.

Although every leader in Umno was indebted to Dr Mahathir for his 22 years of leading the country, loyalty

must prevail to the party and present president Abdullah, Tajol said.

"Nobody is wrong in the ongoing rift, it is a difference of viewpoints but the arguments should not openly continue," he said.

Tajol, who is a supreme council member, also said Kelantan Umno must stay united if it hopes to recapture Kelantan.

Perak Umno was appointed by the council to adopt Jeli and Tanah Merah divisions as part of efforts to provide moral support and guidance to the party's strategy in regaining Kelantan.

According to Tajol, both divisions are Umno strongholds, so Perak Umno does not anticipate any problems in the two areas.