

Mahathir: One man cannot topple the PM

by **R. Manirajan**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

The Sun
- 14/8/2006

CYBERJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday one person cannot topple the prime minister.

"Only Umno can. I don't know ... it is up to Umno to decide, not me," he said when asked if his aim was to topple Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He was asked to comment on a statement by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Nazri Aziz on Saturday that he believes Mahathir wants to topple the prime minister.

Mahathir said just as Nazri has his right to give his opinion, so does he as it is a democratic country.

Nazri had also said Mahathir's comments against Abdullah and the government had created confusion among the people, especially Umno members.

"How can one person try to topple the prime minister? I am not forming a party or anything ... even talking to Umno, I am not allowed ... this is a very democratic country," he quipped, when met after the Multimedia University convocation here.

Asked to comment on the claim by Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, who is a former Khazanah Nasional director, that Khazanah did not approve the purchase of Agusta by Proton, Mahathir said: "They (the board of directors) can prove it. I am sure they have proof ... bring it up."

On Khairy Jamaluddin and Datuk Kalimullah Hassan having reportedly sold their shares in ECM Libra Avenue Bhd, Mahathir said: "That is very good ... now they have to leave the 4th floor and go somewhere (else)."

"Pak Lah also has to build the bridge to replace the causeway. If he does that, I don't have any more comments."

(Neither Khairy nor Kalimullah has an office on the 4th floor of the Prime Minister's Office.)

Khairy sold his entire stake of 10.2 million shares, representing 1.23% of ECM Libra, for 65 sen a share on Friday, and Kalimullah reduced his stake to 40 million shares or 4.8% and is no longer deemed a substantial shareholder.