

Khairy to refute allegations

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KOTA BARU: He has been the target of stinging attacks and salacious rumours in recent months, but Khairy Jamaluddin has opted to stay quiet.

Yesterday, the Umno Youth deputy chief signalled that he was ready to adopt a different approach. Khairy said he would answer the allegations when opening 30 Youth divisional meetings nationwide over the next few weeks.

"I have an obligation to the party, and when I answer, it does not mean I want to wage war. The objective is to speak the truth," he said in his speech before opening the Pengkalan Chepa Umno Youth division assembly.

Over the past few months, he has been criticised by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for being the power behind the throne. The former prime minister has accused him of exerting influence on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his father-in-law.

Khairy said everyone had the right to criticise but with one proviso — criticisms should be based on facts.

"Where are the facts? Why



Khairy says attacks are personal in nature

can't they just show the facts to substantiate their allegations? There are so many rumours about me now.

"I see many of the accusations and criticisms are baseless, and what I regret is that their attacks are personal.

"They attack me personally after failing to find Pah Lah's weakness, and what they do now is attack his son-in-law as being unpatriotic."

Khairy said he was also sad that the Government's explanation on issues raised by Dr Mahathir had yet to satisfy

him despite several confidential documents on the crooked bridge being disclosed.

"The Government has taken a risk in disclosing the documents and the matter should have ended, but it is still raised."

At a Press conference later, Khairy said the movement was compiling detailed information on pro-Israeli companies in Malaysia.

"Once the search is complete, we will circulate the information among the Umno Youth members before releasing it to the public."

He was also asked about allegations by Pas Youth chief Salahuddin Ayub that the investment bank he worked for — ECM Libra — had ties with Israelis.

"I will investigate. As of now, I have learnt that an individual who holds less than one per cent of the company's shares had dealings with Israelis."

On rumours of involvement with actress Maya Karin, Khairy said he had only one woman in his life.

"In the name of God, I only have one wife. She is Nori binti Abdullah."