

Allow Pak Lah to do it his way

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Leaders told to counter allegations against PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno leaders have called on all quarters to allow Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to administer the country his way.

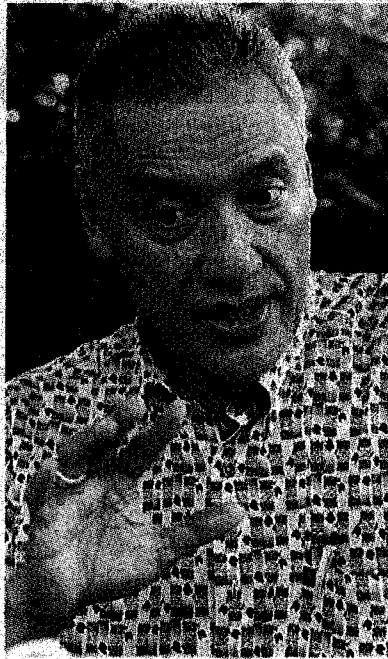
They have also advised those concerned to counter allegations against the Prime Minister with clear-cut explanations of his policies.

Party information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib told Umno members not to listen to any incorrect information that is being spread regarding the administration of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This would only frustrate national development efforts, he told reporters after opening a seminar on the 9th Malaysia Plan (9MP) for senior officers of the Rubber Industry Smallholders Development Authority (Risda) here yesterday.

Muhammad, who is Risda chairman, said: "I hope the people will continue to extend their support to the current administration because the accusations being circulated are aimed at undermining the leadership of the Prime Minister."

While acknowledging that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a dynamic leader who was successful in developing the country, he added: "Now, allow Abdullah to develop the country in his own way of administration."



Muhammad, 'Accusations aimed at undermining leadership of the Prime Minister'

Umno secretary-general and Home Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said Abdullah has told all ministers to continue giving explanations to questions and accusations against the Government.

He said the Prime Minister, at the Cabinet meeting yesterday, had told them to clarify all matters based on facts and not to withhold any information.

Selangor Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said Malaysians needed to move on to more important things — like carrying out the 9MP projects — as Abdullah had already given his wide-ranging explanations on the accusations against his administration.

"The Prime Minister's explanation is very good, very detailed. What is more important for me, is to work for the economy and to keep serving the public," he said.

Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajul Rosli Ghazali has denied suggestions that he is supporting Abdullah simply because he is the Prime Minister.

"What I'm saying is that my loyalty is to Pak Lah as the prime minister. It's not a matter of support," he told reporters after chairing a dialogue with investors at the State Secretariat here yesterday.

Tajul Rosli was responding to Dr Mahathir who had recently cited him and Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim as examples of leaders who unthinkingly voiced support for Abdullah because of his position.

He pointed out that when Dr Mahathir had been the prime minister, he had also willingly followed and "obeyed him".