

PM: PAC should not be questioned by anyone

The Star - 17/6/2006

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) as a parliamentary institution should not be questioned by anyone, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister said allegations and negative assumptions could not be made against the PAC as long as it carried out its duties and responsibilities.

He was asked to comment on the relationship between ministers and the PAC when replying to questions raised by the PAC yesterday.

Earlier when speaking to reporters after chairing the Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here, Abdullah said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu would provide a written explanation to the PAC to resolve the issues between the two parties.

He said Samy Vellu had assured him that he would reply to the letter sent by the PAC asking him to attend a meeting between the PAC and the ministry on June 22.

"Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad, as (PAC) chairman, has sent a letter requesting his presence to explain to the PAC the views that were attributed to him (Samy Vellu)," Abdullah said.

"If he cannot attend, a written explanation should be



'Q AND A' TIME: Abdullah answering questions from reporters after chairing the Barisan Supreme Council meeting at the PWTC in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

given to the PAC.

"I asked Samy Vellu what he was going to do about it and he said that he would send a reply according to what's required by (Shahrir's) letter."

Abdullah was asked to com-

ment on the "media war" between Samy Vellu and Shahrir which stemmed from press reports quoting the PAC as asking the Works Ministry to review the compensation to Gerbang Perdana Selatan Berse-

padu Sdn Bhd following the scrapping of the scenic bridge project.

Earlier reports quoted Samy Vellu as saying he would not attend the PAC meeting, and challenging the committee to

take legal action against him.

Samy Vellu declined to comment, telling the reporters in a raised voice not to ask him about the issue.

Looking uneasy, he quickly left the room. — Bernama