

Umno will stay united despite Dr M's criticism, says party veteran

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KUALA LUMPUR: An Umno veteran is certain that the criticism levelled at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his administration by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not undermine party unity.

Tan Sri Aziz Tapa said that, despite the criticism, support for the Government must be upheld as it had provided considerable facilities for the people.

"I always say that when we work for the people, listen to

all that people say although some of what they say is not relevant," he said.

"If you work for yourself, do not listen too much to what others say or you cannot do your work."

"Everybody can speak out, but whether what they say is good or not is left to those responsible - the administrators," he added.

Asked whether the criticism should be stopped, he said: "If he (Dr Mahathir) wants to speak, then let him speak. It is

all right because the world knows that we practise and respect democracy and support the Government 100%."

In Penang, the Bagan Umno division proposed that the Umno Supreme Council dispatch a third party to advise Dr Mahathir to refrain from making hard-hitting remarks.

Its chief, Datuk Abdul Latiff Mirasa, said the former prime minister should take into consideration unity within Umno and the Malays. - Bernama