

Dr M embarrassing us, says Kedah MB

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KUALA NERANG: Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid said yesterday Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was going overboard as an Umno member by continuing to criticise Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said he had lost confidence in Dr Mahathir and felt that the former prime minister's continued criticism of the government would make the people, particularly Umno members, lose respect for him as a statesman.

"I feel that the people of Kedah themselves are embarrassed by Tun's actions and will lose their respect for him," he said at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house for the Pedu state constituency at the Naka Community Hall near here.

Mahdzir also said that while Dr Mahathir was hurling criticisms at the government, the former prime minister was adviser to several government bodies such as national oil

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Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid

company Petronas, national car maker Proton and the Langkawi Development Authority.

"If Tun (Dr Mahathir) wants to bash the government, it would only be proper for him to relinquish all these posts and be an independent individual who has nothing to do with the government. Otherwise, what's the use of being an adviser?"

Mahdzir said that when Dr Mahathir was prime minister, no one dared to criticise him.

"He used his powers, he

used the ISA (Internal Security Act) to arrest people, and now he says the country has turned into a police state."

Mahdzir said he assumed that Dr Mahathir was speaking on behalf of other people when he wrote a letter to the media saying that anyone who attempted to hold any function that might involve criticising the prime minister would be harassed and threatened by the police and government leaders to force them to cancel the function.

He said the willingness of

Abdullah to face criticism and give priority to decision-making by consensus were praiseworthy attributes.

"Tun (Dr Mahathir) should realise that his action (of criticising the government) had never been practised by former prime ministers before him."

The Kedah menteri besar said that as a former prime minister it would be appropriate for Dr Mahathir to give the current leadership the opportunity to administer the country.

Mahdzir said the Kedah Umno liaison committee would not give any explanation to its members because it was felt that they had seen the situation in a different perspective compared to the time when Dr Mahathir first began his criticism of the government.

About 10,000 people, including party and community leaders of various races, visited the open house held from 11 am to 4 pm. — Bernama