

Umno may discuss Dr M's advisory positions

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PUTRAJAYA: The Umno supreme council, which meets today, may discuss Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's position as adviser in several government agencies and companies.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said the matter was not discussed at the Cabinet meeting yesterday.

"From what we know, this suggestion had been made by several Umno leaders, including those in the supreme council. It may be discussed but I do not know for sure," he said.

Asked about Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's stand on Dr Mahathir's criticisms, Nazri said the Prime Minister touched briefly on it, but it was not something that the Cabinet was not aware of.

"There was no discussion about it because there was nothing to report that we did not already know," he said.

Dr Mahathir is adviser to Petronas, Proton and the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada), among others.

Several supreme council members, including Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid and Entrepreneurial and Cooperative Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, had called on the council to discuss the matter.

In Kuala Lumpur, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said Dr Mahathir should take note that it is *haram* (forbidden) and a sin to make someone lose face in public.

"I appeal to Tun, who was my idol, to stop running down Pak Lah," he told a press conference.

He said it was fine to criticise a leader but this should be done appropriately, behind closed doors.

He denied that those holding government and party posts were too afraid to speak up.