

I'm satisfied, says Mahathir

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PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was satisfied with the private meeting he had with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday because he was able to have his say.

Dr Mahathir said he fulfilled his intention to pour out what was in his heart over issues he had raised against Abdullah in

recent months.

However, the former Prime Minister said he would continue to criticise the current administration if he felt "anything done is not good for the country."

Dr Mahathir said he had raised various matters, including the crooked bridge, the Approved Permits issue, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Proton.

He, however, said Abdullah did not respond to all that he (Dr Mahathir) had raised during the meeting, including the cancelled crooked bridge project in Johor.

"I can't say I am happy (with the meeting) but I am satisfied that I have been able to say these things directly to him. People say that I have been making comments from outside but now I have seen him."

Dr Mahathir said he spoke for

one hour and 30 minutes and Abdullah, who jotted everything down in a little notebook, spoke for 30 minutes.

On how Abdullah reacted when he said he would continue criticising if necessary, Dr Mahathir said Abdullah did not say anything.

The prime minister, he said, told him that because of his actions to publicly criticise Abdullah and his administration, he (Dr Mahathir) had

become very unpopular and his actions had also affected Abdullah's popularity.

"He said that the people who benefited from all this were Anwar Ibrahim and Nik Aziz, who have become more popular," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said he would wait and see what would happen after the meeting and "if there will be changes or not."

"I hope, following this meeting there will be some kind of

action taken. That's all," he said.

The meeting, he said, ended cordially with both shaking hands before parting. When met after another function late last night, Dr Mahathir said he would provide more explanations today about what transpired at his meeting with Abdullah.

"The ball is now at his feet. It is up to him what he wants to do. Now he knows what I feel unhappy about," he added.