

Please patch up, PM and Dr M urged

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THE Mahathir-Abdullah spat continues to be a popular issue raised in debates by delegates to the Umno general assembly.

Among the most passionate was Selangor's Datuk Mufi Shuib, who stressed the use of the word "please, please and please".

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his predecessor, Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, should reunite for the Malays. "We admire the past leader (Mahathir), we support the present leader (Abdullah). Please unite again for the Malays," he said.

"We urge them, please don't make the life of the Malays difficult because of a minor spat"

Mufti said Abdullah visited Mahathir immediately when the latter was admitted to hospital and this showed Abdullah as a true Muslim and Malay.

"It is inappropriate to question the contributions of past leaders. We did not inherit the struggle from the past leaders. But we need to pay up whatever we owe to our future generation.

"Party members were not interested to grab positions in the party previously.

"After 57 years, it is a totally different scenario today. Fifty-seven years ago, we just started to learn how to rule a country ... after 400 years of colonisation, we need to learn from our mistakes"

What the others say:

» Malacca's Hasnoor Husin: Today the party is facing yet another sort of challenge - the question of party leadership.

Who are we to criticise and question Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his contributions to the party and government.

In Umno tradition and culture, members follow and support the party leadership of the day. And now, who else but Pak Lah is leading the party.

The good deeds and contributions will continue to be remembered. However, Pak Lah should not feel belittled because members' support for Abdullah is solid and undivided.

» Umno Overseas Club's (New Zealand) Afida Sohana Awang Soh: We express full support for the prime minister and pledge to help achieve the national mission towards realising the Ninth Malaysian Plan in line with Vision 2020.

But, when parents quarrel at home, children will go to their rooms and watch the arguments from behind the curtain, with tears in their eyes.

And when party leaders quarrel, we feel very restless abroad.

Wouldn't it be nice if the crisis is settled amicably with no one trying to stab another in the back? We will return one day, but before that, we would like to entrust this heritage to all of you dear fathers and mothers.

We would like to return to a peaceful heritage, with a family entity which is well-preserved. Furthermore, we have only one mission, that is to strengthen the Malay nation. » Federal Territory's Senator Datuk Kamaruddin Ambok: There should be no question as to who is leading the party. There should be one navigator with one direction.

We are confident Umno and the Malay community are solidly behind Pak Lah to enable him to fulfil his national mission.