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Dr Mahathir.

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 24 (Bernama) -- Certain individuals who have had photographs taken with the Prime Minister are using the photographs for personal gains, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement today.

It had come to the knowledge of the Prime Minister that some of these people claimed to be able to intercede on behalf of business people seeking contracts and projects from the government, it added.

Individuals frequently asked to be photographed with the Prime Minister at various functions and visits to the Prime Minister.

+Some are known to the Prime Minister and some are not known to him. As Prime Minister and Member of Parliament, the Prime Minister is unable to reject requests to be photographed together,+ the statement said.

The statement stressed that the Prime Minister was not in a position to grant favours. -- more

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It added: +Although the Prime Minister may, for political reasons, see certain people who are known to him, particularly from among his constituents, requests made through these people will carry no weight with the Prime Minister or the government.

+The official channel must be used at all times.+

The Prime Minister's Office sought the cooperation of the public to contact the office if they were approached by anyone claiming to be able to gain access or get the attention of the Prime Minister for whatever purpose.

They should contact the office by telephoning 232-2444 extensions 208 and 218. -- Bernama

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