

Beware of photo trick, PM's office tells public

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. -- Certain individuals who have had photographs taken with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad have used these photographs for personal gain, the Prime Minister's office said today.

In a statement, it said that at various functions and visits to the Prime Minister, individuals frequently asked to be photographed with him.

While some are known and some are not known to him, as Prime Minister and Member of Parliament, he was unable to reject these requests.

However, it was regretted that some individuals had used these photographs to claim that they are very close to the Prime Minister.

It had come to the knowledge of the Prime Minister that some of these people had claimed to be able to intercede on behalf of business

people seeking contracts and projects from the Government.

"The Prime Minister's office would like to stress that the Prime Minister is not in a position to grant favours.

"Although he 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," added the statement.

The Prime Minister's office also seeks the co-operation of the public to contact it if approached by anyone claiming to be able to gain access or get the attention of the Prime Minister for whatever purpose.

The telephone number is 03-2322444 ext 208 and 218.