

Dr Mahathir at wits' end over rumours

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is at his wits' end to refute rumours that his health is poor, saying perhaps that only a 24-hour television watch on him could effectively dispel the wild talk.

Only with the television cameras recording his moves day and night could convince the rumour-mongers that he is in good health, the Prime Minister said in a forthcoming interview to be screened by RTM.

He said the rumour-mongers may be gambling on the stock market, and hope to make capital gains from their action.

Asked what he thought

about the rumour, he said: "I do not know what to say. Perhaps the question can be directed to my rivals. For example, one who is not ill is said to be sick. It seems that some people are smarter than doctors.

"Personally, I feel fine and can work like others."

Asked whether the rumours were the work of certain people outside the country, Dr Mahathir said this could have been the work of people with vested interest who wanted to discredit Malaysia.

This is because the country has been acknowledged for its success in almost all fields, such as good racial relations, economic growth

and sound financial position. This may have caused envy among some quarters, he added.

He cited as an example Government efforts to beautify Kuala Lumpur which inevitably were criticised by some people.

Asked whether this was an attempt to discredit him, the Prime Minister said he was not certain about the motives, but added that attempts to topple him had been going around for a long time.

He said: "They can go on attacking but I will continue to defend myself.

"If it's time for me to fall, I will fall. But if it's not ... I'll still be here," he said.