

PM tells family: Avoid active politics

ALOR STAR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked his wife and children not to get involved in politics to avoid accusations.

He said he did it because he did not want anyone to think that he was planning a family dynasty.

"For that matter, I told my children that they could join as members but not get active. My wife can accompany me around, but I will not allow her to hold party posts," he told his Kubang Pasu constituents in Jitra.

Dr Mahathir said he had never asked his family to campaign for him during the elections.

"One should get support in earnest and only on merit, not because of family ties," he stressed.

He said the Sultan of Kelantan, on the other hand, had campaigned during the 1990 general election although the Constitution prohibited the Rulers from doing so.

"All he is interested in is to see his uncle (Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah) become the Prime Minister," he added.

Dr Mahathir also said he was aware that some quarters were talking about the gifts that he had received.

"All these gifts are received in my official capacity as Prime Minister and will be handed to the museum when I step down. It is not for me to take along," he added.

The Prime Minister later viewed the Pedu Dam tourism project.