

13/04/2004

Dr M maintains busy schedule to `keep me alive'

MIRI, Mon. - Even after retirement, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad still keeps a busy schedule, though not as punishing as when he was the nation's chief executive officer.

"Well, I am much more free now than when I was Prime Minister," he said. "But still I am quite busy and that keeps me alive."

Speaking here at the end of his two-day visit to Miri, he was asked how life was treating him since he retired in November last year after 22 years as Prime Minister.

"Never retire. You have to work. When you work, it will keep you alive," he said with a smile.

When he was Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir, 78, was famous for keeping a punishing schedule that even younger officials as well as journalists covering his functions found hard to keep up.