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Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia

Golf diplomacy on way out?



KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — After 25 years, golf diplomacy here looks like being on the way out.

Former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman started it all in the late 50s when many major issues affecting the nation and its neighbours were hammered out on the greens.

The late Tun Abdul Razak and to a lesser extent, Tun Hussein Onn, also indulged in the sport.

The new Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, however, does not take to the sport and is believed to have told top civil servants recently to spend less time at the golf clubs.

The Prime Minister has told civil servants he does not believe that important discussions and decisions can be made at the golf clubs.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Musa Hitam has said that he does not play golf with politicians or businessmen, "but only

with friends occasionally."

One Minister has been heard to say that he believes playing golf is a waste of time.

The Minister of National and Rural Development, Encik Sanusi Junid is not a member of any recreation club and hates the game.

He says that he does not play the game "because of the things that caddies say about golfers."

"When I was a boy, I used to be a caddy. The way that caddies talk about golfers made me decide not to take up the game," Encik Sanusi says.