

Dr M: It is about Proton

'It is not something between me and Rafidah'

SERDANG, Fri. — The ongoing debate over Approved Permits is not a fight between Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

So said the former prime minister. He said there was no reason for the International Trade and Industry Minister to say that she was hurt over the controversy surrounding the award of permits to import cars.

"It is not a question about her. It is not something between me and her (Rafidah), I am talking about Proton and the interest of Pro-

ton," he said after presenting a lecture titled "Moving Towards A Progressive Society" organised by the Rashid Foundation at Universiti Putra Malaysia here.

"It is not personal, it is not about me and ... it is about Proton. But why bring these per-

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Dr Mahathir

sonal things. I can also say that I feel hurt because somebody who was working with me said I cannot remember things," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Rafidah's emotional reaction over the AP issue was irrelevant.

"What is important is, is it good

for the nation and good for Proton? That's all," he added.

The AP controversy erupted after Dr Mahathir pointed out that the national car, Proton, was being undermined by the import of cheap foreign cars.

Following this, the Government released the list of Malaysians who received APs.

Dr Mahathir increased the stakes in the debate by alleging that Rafidah misled Umno delegates when she spoke to them on the issue at the recent party general assembly.