

Abdullah: Dr M not excluded from assembly

ALL past and present Umno leaders, including former party president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will be invited to attend the Umno general assembly in November.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir would not be excluded.

"We will invite all of them (leaders) and Tun, too," said Abdullah, also Umno president, to reporters on the sidelines of the sixth Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem6) at the Helsinki Media Centre yesterday.

Umno members, he said, must support not only the party to ensure its objectives were achieved, but also all efforts being made that would be carried out by the Barisan Nasional government.

"This is what should be done by all Umno leaders and members, those who are still serving the party as well as those who have retired."

Dr Mahathir, in his capacity as former prime minister, currently leads the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Eminent Persons, the Global Peace Forum and serves as adviser to Proton,



Petronas and a few other set-ups.

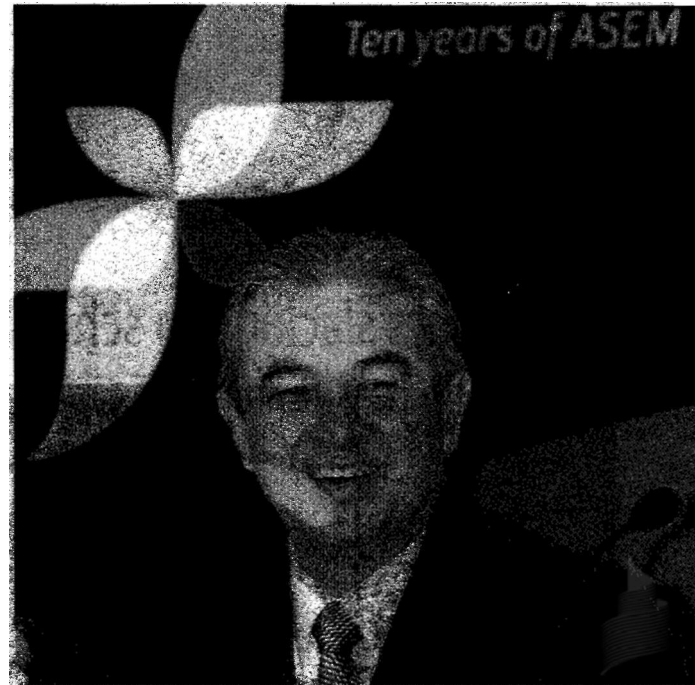
Abdullah said Dr Mahathir could still play a role in his own way.

The Prime Minister also confirmed the detention of two Malaysians at Guantanamo Bay for alleged terrorist activities.

Abdullah said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar had been directed to get in touch with the Malaysian Embassy in Washington to provide necessary assistance, including legal representation, when they were produced in the American court.

Meanwhile, AP reports that 200 anarchists, who were protesting against the presence of leaders from China and Myanmar at the Asem6, battled with the police.

About a dozen people were arrested after protesters threw beer cans and charged police lines, they added.



Abdullah speaking to Malaysian journalists at the Helsinki Fair Centre yesterday. — Bernama picture