

Dr M not a winner but still a star attraction

ALOR STAR: He may not have won the divisional delegate's post but former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad appeared to be the "star attraction" during the Kubang Pasu delegates conference.

Some delegates took the opportunity to pose for photographs with Dr Mahathir while the election was ongoing yesterday morning.

Later, a number of delegates even assured him that he could win because they had voted for him.

Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, were seated at the guest seats during the opening of the meeting by Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

When the meeting broke for lunch, the former premier was swamped by delegates again.

Dr Mahathir and his wife later moved to the observers' seats at the back of the meeting hall and sat together with common party members.

The meeting, held at Dewan Wawasan, the biggest hall in the Kubang Pasu district, was attended by 472 representatives from 138 branches.

A total 496 were eligible to vote.

Dr Mahathir's name was No. 1 on the candidates' list while his son Mukhriz was 10th.

When the results were announced at 5.08pm, the hall went unusually quiet despite the crowd of about 700 people present.

Many observers walked out of the meeting hall, some visibly unhappy with the results.

Dr Mahathir was not at the hall when the results were announced as he was believed to have returned to Kuala Lumpur.