

Dr M: Don't snub BN because of me I am not in active politics anymore

BY EDWARD RAJENDRA

SHAH ALAM: Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said those who had voted for the opposition in the last general election out of anger against him should now throw their support behind Barisan Nasional.

Still in his element, the 78-year-old leader cited the return of former opposition party members to the Umno fold as indication that the people were more supportive of the ruling coalition.

"Those who had led a rebellion have

come back. Those who hated me should not have any reason not to vote for Barisan as I have stepped aside from active politics," he said after visiting the Royal Mint of Malaysia here yesterday afternoon.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, he added, had proved to be a leader of calibre who had boosted the confidence of the people and businessmen through his administrative style.

On the issue of elected representatives being dropped as candidates, Dr

Mahathir said: "No one can be an assemblyman for life. We must give others the chance to lead. That is why I have made way.

"If people wanted to stay on, then others would be deprived and it could fuel thoughts of party hopping."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir was given a one-hour briefing on the progress of the Royal Mint of Malaysia and its business arm, Mariwasa Kraftangan Sdn Bhd.

He also had the opportunity to mint a sample of the Declaration of Putrajaya as a Federal Territory medallion.