

Johor Sultan: Dr M shouldn't interfere

JOHOR BARU: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has already retired so he should not interfere in the Government, said Sultan Iskandar Ibni Almarhum Sultan Ismail.

The Johor Ruler, who made an impromptu speech after performing prayers at the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque on Tuesday morning, called on Johoreans to continue supporting the Government under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This was the first time a state ruler has come out in public to defend the present administration. Those present at the prayers included Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, state executive councillors, senior government officials and politicians.

Sultan Iskandar said Abdullah and Dr Mahathir were his friends, who were both recipients of the highest state award.

In Muar yesterday, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin

Yassin said he was happy to hear that the Sultan had called for Johoreans to support Abdullah.

The Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries Minister said Abdullah had a very tight programme to implement the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"He may have a different style or approach in implementing development programmes but the target is to achieve Vision 2020 which was outlined by Dr Mahathir," he said at his Hari Raya open house.