

Only two ministers at Dr M's open house

KUALA LUMPUR: Only two cabinet ministers attended former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Hari Raya open house yesterday.

Spotted among the 7,500 well-wishers were Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin and Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Rais Yatim and his wife.

Also present were former ministers Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik and wife Toh Puan Ena, Datuk

Napsiah Omar and Tan Sri Leo Moggie.

Rais said he extended greetings to Mahathir and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali out of friendship. "I come as a good and personal friend. He (Mahathir) is entitled to his views. We should not pass judgment too quickly (about the meeting between Mahathir and the prime minister) and I don't think I should either."

The former premier kept mum when asked by reporters to respond to criticisms by several

ministers and political leaders that his continued harsh statements against his successor and the government were inappropriate.

The other VIPs present included Dewan Negara Speaker Tan Sri Michael Chen, Armed Forces chief Tan Sri Mohd Anwar Mohd Nor, former deputy minister Datuk Seri Kerk Choo Ting, former Selangor menteri besar Tan Sri Abu Hassan Omar, and corporate high-flyers Datuk Nazir Razak and Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew.