

'Mahathir wanted third party to be present'

ALOR STAR: Although Sunday's four-eyed meeting between Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi appeared to be a demonstration of their sincerity, Mahathir had wanted a reliable third party to be present.

Datuk Othman Abdul, a Mubarak (council of former elected representatives) member who played a key role in arranging the meeting said it was only after much persuasion that Mahathir agreed to the one-to-one meeting.

"Dr Mahathir did not show a favourable reaction when Mubarak told him of the type of meeting preferred by Pak Lah," Othman told Bernama at his home in Kampung Paya Kerchut, near Pendang, on Tuesday.

According to him, Mahathir gave several reasons why it was important for a reliable third person to be present.

He said Mahathir also stated that the meeting was not meant to elicit apologies from either side as neither had done the other wrong, and he just wanted to meet Abdullah to air his grievances give him some advice.

However, Othman said he and other Mubarak members saw the meeting as a success and a "meaningful gift" to Malaysians. Bernama