

# Dr M laments attempts to silence him

KUALA LUMPUR: Several hundred people turned up at Subang Airport yesterday to welcome Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his return from a holiday abroad.

After he alighted from a private jet at the Petronas hangar, the crowd shouted *Hidup Tun*, and held up banners.

He then spoke to them, la-

menting that there were attempts to silence him. He repeated his litany of complaints against the Government.

Over the past few months, Dr Mahathir has accused Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of reversing his policies and aborting some of his pet projects, including the plan to build a

bridge to replace the Causeway.

He said yesterday that he was not prepared to accept the Government's explanation on why it aborted the project. Neither was he impressed with the substance of the documents declassified by the Government.

Last week, the Government

declassified several confidential documents to rebut allegations by Dr Mahathir that it was this Government which put sand and airspace on the negotiating table with Singapore.

Many in the crowd wore T-shirts with Dr Mahathir's picture on the front..

The only two prominent

faces in the crowd were former Umno MPs Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad and Datuk Ibrahim Ali.

Dr Mahathir said that now that he was well-rested, he would continue to speak up against the Government.

He spoke to reporters while standing on the back seat of a four-wheel drive vehicle.