

'Dr M will do us proud if he wins'

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SEREMBAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday said he was very happy that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize — and that he and the nation “will be proud if Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad wins”.

On Sunday, it was reported that four non-governmental organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina had nominated Dr Mahathir for the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

The four NGOs are the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology, the Congress of Bosnian Intellectuals and two Christian organisations — the Serb Civic Council from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Croat National Council.

Former Bosnia-Herzegovina vice-president Dr Ejup Ganic spearheaded the move to nominate Dr Mahathir.

Former US vice-president Al Gore, Finnish peace-broker Martti Ahtisaari and Chinese dissident Rebiya Kadeer are among

those who have been nominated for the prize this year.

Bangladesh's Grameen Bank and its founder, Muhammad Yunus, won the Nobel Peace Prize last year.

Meanwhile, in Putrajaya, Dr Mahathir said the government was supportive of the initiative taken by the Perdana Global Peace Organisation to organise the three-day War Crimes Conference and Exhibition, which starts here today.

“One of the ministries has donated a huge sum of money for this conference. I believe that the Prime Minister's Department has also contributed. I don't know about other governments, only about the Malaysian government.”

He said the conference, the third of its kind held here, would have a cross-section of participants from all over the world.

“We hope that after this conference we would be able to do something towards criminalising war.”