

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 6/10/2009

Dr M turns down Nik Aziz's offer

NSF - 6/10/2009

DUNGUN: There has been more development taking place in Terengganu than Kelantan, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"I have seen more development in Terengganu although I do not come here often," he said in response to an invitation by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to visit the state to see first-hand the development there.

He was said this after delivering a speech on Malay supremacy (*ketuanan Melayu*) at UiTM Dungun, here, yesterday.

Nik Aziz had invited Dr Mahathir to Kelantan when the latter had said the menteri besar should give others a chance of leading Kelantan as the state was still backward. He attributed this to a certain extent to Nik Aziz.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir welcomed the ministe-

rial appointment of Senator Datuk Seri Idris Jala, saying that he had a clean background.

Idris, the former Malaysia Airlines chief executive officer and managing director, was sworn in as minister in the Prime Minister's Department early last month.

"I feel more outsiders should be appointed, instead of only party insiders," Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said the Malays should enrol in universities that had a good mix of races.

That way, they could evaluate their academic performances against the non-Malays.

Malay students, he added, should not be satisfied with just succeeding among their own group.

"When we are among ourselves, we wouldn't really know the value of our success."