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# 2M all over again at event



**All smiles:** Dr Mahathir, Musa and orang asli villagers posing for the media at the launch of a diabetes awareness programme in Pangsun, near Hulu Langat, yesterday.

## Better ties seen between Dr M and Musa

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**HULU LANGAT:** They were once very close political allies, leading the Government - then dubbed the 2M administration - until they had a massive fallout in 1986.

Guests at a community event in an orang asli village yesterday in Pangsun, near here, did a double-take when they saw former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his former deputy Tun Musa Hitam together and seemingly on very good terms.

As the two arrived at the launch of a diabetes awareness programme, they were given superstar treatment by about 500 villagers and the organisers.

Dr Mahathir, who is the patron of the National Diabetes Institute, received a mock cheque for RM1.34mil from Musa, who chairs Yayasan Sime Darby.

Musa, in his speech, said it had been over two decades since his retirement from active politics but the urge to give a political talk was still very "tempting".

However, he said, he was refraining from it

to Dr Mahathir, was watching him closely.

"People also have to understand that there is a distinction between politics and friendship. I have been in touch with Dr Mahathir lately to discuss various matters, which among others is this programme," he said.

Speaking to the press later, Dr Mahathir said his relationship with Musa in recent times had been good.

Asked if they had buried the hatchet, Dr Mahathir joked that "it is only when it is for the orang asli" that they could come together.

Dr Mahathir and Musa came into power with the "Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy (*Bersih, Cekap dan Amanah*)" slogan in 1982.

However, the duo had a fallout during the Umno Team A-Team B split after the 1986 general election, which saw Musa resigning from all party and government posts.

In 2006, when Dr Mahathir launched his criticism of the Government led by his successor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Musa described Abdullah's refusal to react as "elegant silence" and that it was the right thing to do.