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Dr M: Dump politicians who don't fulfil their promises

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday politicians who break promises or contradict their stand should not be entrusted with leading the nation.

"The rakyat should pay close attention to people who make open promises but do otherwise. They will always end up breaking their promises," he said, referring to the possibility of Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat contesting in the general election yet again.

The Kelantan menteri besar had previously indicated he would turn down the chance to stand as a candidate in the 13th general election, and had even urged fellow veteran Dr Mahathir to resign from his party.

Dr Mahathir also refuted allegations by former minister Tan Sri Sanusi Junid that his past economic policies intended to help the Malays were inspired by Germany's policy of limiting Jewish financial influence.

"It may have been interpreted as anti-Jewish, but they did create many problems for us and the rest of the world.

"They disobeyed international law and got away with it. The real purpose of the policies were to develop Malaysia as a whole."

He also denied that the policies were against the interests of non-Malays, as alleged by Sanusi.

"When I was re-elected in 1999, it was largely due to the support of the non-Malays.

"The Malays, at the time, were unhappy with me for the way I had



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says politicians who don't keep their word should not be entrusted with leading the nation

treated Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir delivered a keynote address at a symposium on peace and harmonious co-existence in Universiti Malaya here.

He also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue of Universiti Malaya and the Institute of Oriental Philosophy of Japan on efforts to promote peaceful solutions to disputes between countries.