

ELDER STATESMAN ROLE

Dr M: I do not need to follow economist's wishes

PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has poured cold water on the suggestion by an economist that he stay out of active politics.

He said he was under no obligation to heed the advice given by economist Professor Jomo Kwame Sundaram.

"That is his view. I do not necessarily need to follow his wishes," Dr Mahathir, who is now with Parti Bumiputera Perkasa Malaysia, told reporters here yesterday.

At a talk organised by the Oxford and Cambridge Society of Malaysia on Monday, Jomo said Dr Mahathir was "stubborn" and had ignored his advice to take on

a role as an elder statesman instead of remaining active in politics.

"I told him that instead of continuing to be involved in politics, he should take on the role of an elder statesman. As usual, he ignored my advice."

Dr Mahathir added that he would remain active in politics for the country's prosperity.

"For the country, if people come to you for help, then you have to provide the assistance needed.

"I cannot tell them that I won't be able to help them because I need to rest (retire from politics).

"If they are people who sought my advice, then I will do so."