

Dr M weathers close to 800 questions in cross-examination

KUALA LUMPUR: At 99 years old, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad proved his resilience as he weathered nearly 800 questions during cross-examination in his defamation suit against Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The former prime minister,

who filed the suit over the deputy prime minister's claims about his ancestry, defended his reputation and name.

Dr Mahathir, who had filed the suit claiming Zahid had alleged his real name was "Mahathir a/l Iskandar Kutty" instead of "Ma-

hathir bin Mohamad", expressed dismay.

He said Zahid had brandished a photograph of an identity card on his phone, purportedly showing the name "a/l Iskandar Kutty" as proof.

"When he lifted the phone and

showed it, he (Zahid) said, 'This is the IC' (referring to the phone). That would not be officially accepted anywhere if we were to show a picture on a phone.

"This is my IC and my family's, and the copy was provided by the National Registration Depart-

ment itself.

"Today's proceedings were straightforward, as I've already addressed these 800 questions," he said yesterday.

On July 20, 2022, Dr Mahathir filed the suit, naming Zahid as the defendant.