

Dr M to miss assembly, his first in over 30 years

The Star: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2005

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not be attending this year's Umno general assembly starting tomorrow, the first time he is giving the party assembly a miss in over 30 years.

The former Prime Minister is overseas on a private visit and is currently in Argentina.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to visit Columbia at the invitation of the Columbian government later this week to receive one of that country's highest state awards.

According to an aide, Dr Mahathir, who helmed Umno for 22 years before he stepped down in 2003, was only expected back in the country on Sunday.

Asked whether Dr Mahathir was aware that the list of Approved Permit holders had been made public by the Prime Minister's office on Monday, the aide said: "I am not sure. I have no way of getting in touch with him."

The AP issue made headlines when Dr Mahathir, who is also Proton Holdings Bhd chairman, said that the issuance of large numbers of APs had led to unfair competition against the national car.

