



PERSONAL VISIT: Suharto and Dr Mahathir waving to photographers after their meeting at Suharto's residence in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday. — *Appic*

Dr M visits Suharto while in Jakarta for a seminar

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JAKARTA: Former Malaysian premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid an unscheduled visit to former Indonesian president Suharto at his private residence here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali were accompanied to the door by a smiling 84-year-old Suharto after a more than 45-minute meeting inside, an AFP photographer witnessed.

The pair embraced, kissed each other on the cheek and waved to waiting journalists before the Malaysian guests departed by car without commenting to the press.

Suharto appeared in good

health.

Dr Mahathir was in town as a keynote speaker for a seminar of the Golkar party, Suharto's political vehicle during his more than three decades in power, but had suddenly made a request to see the former Indonesian president, said Mien Uno, who was helping to organise the seminar.

"It was just a personal visit, nothing related to political matters. There were only questions about how Suharto was doing, how Mahathir was doing."

The Indonesian attorney-general's office last month said that doctors would be asked to re-examine the health of Suharto

to determine once and for all whether he was fit enough to face trial on corruption charges.

Suharto has so far escaped being put in the dock, with his lawyers arguing that his poor health made him unfit for trial.

The attorney-general, Abdul Rahman Saleh, was, however, quoted in a report yesterday, saying that the plans to re-examine might be dropped because it could cost too much.

"A team of doctors who take care of Suharto's health has come to me and said that we will need 200 million rupiah (RM75,754) just to fund the re-examination," he said, according to the *Jakarta Post*. — AFP