

NO40: (F)  
MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 16 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY DESCRIBED HIS NEW JOB AS THE NATION'S FOURTH PRIME MINISTER AS A "GREAT BURDEN."

"IT WILL BE A GREAT BURDEN TO ME BECAUSE NOW I WOULD NOT HAVE ANYONE TO REFER TO OR CONSULT WITH," HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER SENDING OFF HIS PREDECESSOR TUN HUSSEIN ONN AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE.

TUN HUSSEIN HAD EARLIER HANDED OVER THE PM'S OFFICE TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR AND SAID FAREWELL TO HIS STAFF AS WELL AS THOSE FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS IN THE PM'S DEPARTMENT'S COMPLEX.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR DESCRIBED THE TUNSHIP AWARDED TO DATUK HUSSEIN AS THE NATION'S APPRECIATION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY.

ON RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO DATUK HUSSEIN, HE SAID THESE HAD BEEN INSTITUTIONALISED AND THEY WOULD BE ACCORDED TO ALL PRIME MINISTERS WHO RETIRE. -- BERNAMA 1313/1B