

Praise from Dr M for Tun Suffian

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid a glowing tribute to Tun Mohamed Suffian at a farewell dinner for the out-going Lord President here tonight.

Tun Suffian was commended for his contributions to the legal and judicial system of the country in a career which spanned 34 years.

"His personality and leadership quality are an inspiration

to young lawyers. His loyalty and honesty in the judiciary is something to be proud of and he is also known as a fair and considerate person," said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Tun Suffian was one of the few lawyers he knows who can communicate in layman's language.

"Very seldom do you find a lawyer who can write in simple

and easily understood language. Many lawyers prefer to write and talk in high-sounding language, at least to a layman like me," he said.

Tun Suffian's fluidity in delivering his judgements also came in for praise from the Prime Minister.

"I believe his experience as a broadcaster with All-India Radio and the British Broadcasting Corporation must have helped," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said although he had known Tun Suffian during his university days, he never thought that Tun Suffian would one day become Lord President.

Tun Suffian's distinguished career started when he was appointed a magistrate in 1948. He served as a Senior Federal Counsel in Pahang, Johore and Kuala Lumpur before he was appointed Solicitor General in 1959.

In 1968 he became a Judge of the Federal Court. Five years later he became the Chief Justice of Malaya and the following year was appointed the country's third Lord President.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Tun Suffian's books on law and the role he played in the development of the Law Faculty of the University of Malaya were invaluable contributions to the Malaysian legal system.

The Prime Minister also commended Tun Suffian for his contributions to society.

He has been a Pro-Chancellor of the university since 1963 and chairman of the Tun Abdul Razak Foundation since 1978.

Tun Suffian was conferred honorary degrees by the University of Malaya and the University of Singapore for his contributions to the develop-

ment of the legal system of Malaysia and his service to society.

He was awarded the Seri Setia Mahkota by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in 1975. Tan Sri Raja Azlan Shah, who replaces Tun Suffian, will be sworn in as the country's fourth Lord President tomorrow.