

MAHATHIR - TITLE
BN

83
ALOR STAR, AUG. 26 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WAS TODAY HAILED AS +BAPA MODEN MALAYSIA+ (FATHER OF MODERN MALAYSIA) BY KEDAH MENTERI BESAR DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SHAHABUDDIN.

HE GAVE THE TITLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE KEDAH UMNO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING HERE BY DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR.

ALTHOUGH THE MENTERI BESAR DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE REASONS FOR GIVING DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THE TITLE, OBSERVERS BELIEVED IT WAS IN RECOGNITION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN MAKING MALAYSIA A MODERN COUNTRY.

+THE MADE-IN-MALAYSIA CAR, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THE IDEA OF THE PRIME MINISTER WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIATING OTHER PROJECTS THAT COULD TURN MALAYSIA INTO THE MOST PROGRESSIVE NATION IN THE REGION,+ A STATE UMNO LEADER SAID.

DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR ALSO SAID THAT WHILE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS THE +FATHER OF MODERN MALAYSIA+, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN WAS THE +FATHER OF MERDEKA.+

-- MORE 1705/MB

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THE TUNKU WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE OPENING OF THE \$8 MILLION BUILDING WHICH IS NAMED AFTER HIM.

DATUK SERI SYED NAHAR SAID THE OPENING OF THE BUILDING HAD BROUGHT TOGETHER TWO GREAT LEADERS WHO WERE BOTH KEDAH-BORN. -- BERNAMA 1708/MB