

Congrats on a job well done

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DA'UK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah congratulating the cast of the musical drama *Uda dan Dara*, which had its premiere on Saturday night at the Dewan Bandaraya Auditorium.

They were impressed with the overall production and congratulated writer Usman Awang (whose work on the play was first published in 1956), director Rahim Razali and the cast of the musical

drama.

Dr Mahathir described the show as "the best local musical".

Some of the cast are newcomers like Syed Hanasuddin, Norsiah and Eman Manan, who plays the village clown in the drama. Others are veterans like Fari-dah Merican and Khattijah Awang.

The drama, *Uda dan Dara*, is not new. Malaysians saw the first production on television in 1970. Two years later, the same director, Rahim Razali,

staged the first musical at the Universiti of Malaya's Experimental Theatre.

Dances

But Saturday night's third revival of *Uda and Dara* in its second musical form, again under the directorship of Rahim, had the benefit of specially designed props, costumes made from fabrics created by ITM graduates, modern choreography blended with traditional dances, and of course, music and songs.

The theme of the drama, the evil of power-craze, and class and status-conscious individuals, were well-highlighted.

The play was timely as it reflected modern society's relentless pursuit of power, wealth and status.

Yayasan Seni, which staged the comeback of *Uda and Dara* had the Prime Minister and his wife among other distinguished guests.

Uda dan Dara will be on stage nightly until Saturday. — Picture by GOH SENG CHONG.