

U E534 DEE  
MAHATHIR-TUNKU

85 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 6 (BERNAMA) -- WHEN FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN TURNED UP FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE MEDALLIONS TO COMMEMORATE HIS 82ND BIRTHDAY HERE, LITTLE DID HE KNOW WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR HIM.

TO HIS SURPRISE, A TROLLEY BEARING A BIRTHDAY CAKE WAS BROUGHT TO HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAD OFFICIATED AT THE CEREMONY,

TO THE STRUMS OF THE GUITAR, ALL THOSE PRESENT -- WHO INCLUDED MINISTERS AND HEADS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS -- CLAPPED THEIR HANDS AND SANG +HAPPY BIRTHDAY+ AND +FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW+ WHILE THE TUNKU BLEW OUT THE CANDLES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR PAID TRIBUTE TO BAPA MALAYSIA, WHOSE BIRTHDAY FALLS ON FRIDAY, SAYING THAT THE NATION WOULD ALWAYS BE IN GRATITUDE TO HIM FOR BRINGING INDEPENDENCE TO MALAYSIA.

+YOU HAVE ADMINISTERED THE COUNTRY FOR A LONG TIME AND WE HAVE SEEN HOW OUR COUNTRY WAS FREED FROM THE SHACKLES OF COLONIAL RULE AND EMERGING INTO AN INDEPENDENT AND FAMOUS NATION,+ HE ADDED TO LOUD APPLAUSE.

HE SAID THE NATION SHOULD REMEMBER THE TUNKU'S BIRTHDAY AND WHAT BETTER WAY WAS THERE THAN THROUGH BUYING THE MEDALLIONS TO REMIND THEM OF THE TUNKU'S GOOD DEEDS.

+I JOIN THE NATION IN WISHING OUR BAPA MALAYSIA A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND MANY HAPPY RETURNS,+ HE ADDED.

THE TUNKU, WHO WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE CEREMONY, SAID HE APPRECIATED THE KIND THOUGHTS AND COMPLIMENTS.

AND HE QUIPPED:+ THANKS FOR REMEMBERING MY BRITHDAY AND THE LONGER I LIVE, THE MORE YOU HAVE TO FORK OUT SOMETHING,+ REFERRING TO THE MEDALLIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA.

SENATOR TOH MUDA DR A.FADZIL CHE WAN, CHAIRMAN OF DINERS CLUB (M) BHD, WHICH INITIATED THE PROJECT, SAID THE TUNKU WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH MALAYSIA.

+THE TUNKU IS MALAYSIA AND MALAYSIA IS THE TUNKU. WE LOVE MALAYSIA AND WE LOVE AND CHERISH THE TUNKU,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA  
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