

REAL 'WARRIORS' ARE THE ANTI- DRUG FORCE: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Daruk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the real "warriors" in the fight against drugs were the officers of the anti-drug task force.

"The officers (of the anti-drug force) and not I are being honoured," the Prime Minister said in reference to the huge warrior's welcome he received on his return from the international drug conference in Vienna on Monday.

He praised the task force for its efficiency in presenting the problem at the International Conference on

Drug Abuse and Trafficking.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the Prime Minister's Department's annual dinner last night where he presented certificates of merit to 12 people from the department, and a poem was dedicated to him by the staff to honour his role in the conference.

Dr Mahathir, who was president of the conference, said Malaysia must play an important role against drug abuse.

"We are respected by the world for our stand against drug traffickers, although

many nations have criticised our laws and policies," he said.

He said the Prime Minister's Department was a large organisation with 27,000 staff and was one of the most important in the country.

Although the department was the overseer in policy-making, it served only as a base for other departments and Ministries in implementing these policies, he said.

Earlier, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed said that the Prime Minister's

Department was the pulse in the governing of the country and as such should set the standards of efficiency for other departments and Ministries.

He said that was why the staff must be excellent, industrious, disciplined and loyal.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba, Datin Dr Siti Hasmah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Kasitah Gaddam and Deputy Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman and Datuk Ooi Gin Sun.