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MAHATHIR- HISTORICAL  
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**MELAKA**, APRIL 14 (BERNAMA) -- THE DECLARATION OF MELAKA AS A HISTORICAL CITY WILL BE MORE MEANINGFUL IF EFFORTS ARE CONTINUED TO MAKE IT EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND PLEASANT TO **VISIT**, PRIME MINISTER DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD** SAID TODAY.

THE STATE SHOULD BE BEAUTIFUL AND ALWAYS REMEMBERED NOT JUST BY FOREIGN TOURISTS BUT ALSO STUDENTS OF THIS COUNTRY-, HE SAID IN HIS MESSAGE IN THE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME ISSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DECLARATION OF MELAKA **AS** A HISTORICAL CITY TOMORROW.

DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR** INVITED THE PEOPLE TO HELP THE AUTHORITIES DEVELOP MELAKA AS A HISTORICAL CITY WHICH WOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE HISTORY.

LOOKING BACK AT THE HISTORY OF **MELAKA**, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID MELAKA HAD NEARLY 600 YEARS OF HISTORY AND SOON AFTER ITS FOUNDING BECAME A MAJOR PORT IN THE REGION AND GROWTH CENTRE OF THE MELAKA MALAY SULTANATE.

THIS WAS DUE TO ITS LOCATION WHICH WAS SO STRATEGIC MELAKA WAS **FOUGHT OVER** BY THE WESTERN **COLONIAL POWERS** SUCH AS THE PORTUGUESE, DUTCH AND THE BRITISH WHO CAME IN TURNS TO MELAKA. → MORE  
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DATUK **SERI DR MAHATHIR** SAID THE COLONIALISTS ALSO MADE MELAKA THEIR SEAT OF ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE MAIN PORT. AT THAT **TIME**, MELAKA ATTRACTED VARIOUS RACES AND TRADERS, SOME OF WHOM SETTLED THERE PERMANENTLY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID UNTIL **TODAY**, THE RELICS AND HERITAGE LEFT BY THE COLONIALISTS COULD BE FOUND IN ABUNDANCE IN MELAKA AND HAD BECOME HISTORICAL ITEMS. **+THEY** HAVE MADE MELAKA UNIQUE AND BECAUSE OF **THIS**, THE DECLARATION OF MELAKA **AS** A HISTORICAL CITY IS MOST APPROPRIATE AND SERVES AS A SOURCE OF PRIDE TO ALL OF US+.

HE CONGRATULATED THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF MELAKA ON THE HISTORIC OCCASION AND SAID THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE DECLARATION -- THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SUCH EVENT.

THE DECLARATION CEREMONY WILL BE OFFICIATED BY YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI TUN SYED **AHMAD SHAHABUDDIN** AT THE **MUZIUM** BUDAYA PADANG IN BANDAR HILIR TOMORROW MORNING. -- BERNAMA  
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