

# Dr M: Appreciate the nation's historical relics

MALACCA, Sun... — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysians should appreciate the country's historical relics and cultural heritage instead of merely taking them for granted.

The Prime Minister said although many historical buildings and sites looked ordinary to locals, foreigners were impressed and fascinated by them.

"We should highlight these places and promote them as tourist spots," he said when opening the \$6.5 million Sound and Light show at Padang Pahlawan here last night.

Dr Mahathir praised the State for initiating and successfully implementing the project.

"It is unique in the sense that it is the first of its kind in the region," he said

The show is an hour-long interplay of sound and light effects and background narratives, re-enacting the history of Malaysia from the founding of the Malacca Sultanate.

Dr Mahathir said that initially, he had doubts whether such a project could be done in the country although he knew it could be a success here, after watching a similar show in a temple in Macau.

He said he agreed with the State that the project should not be regarded as a mere commercial venture but as a tourism project

contributing to the development of the Industry.

The project, built by Philips Malaysia Sdn Bhd, uses 101 different lighting circuits with 500 bulbs ranging from 60 to 2,000 watts.

The sound system includes six 100W outdoor column speakers and SOW "sensurround" speakers encircling the spectators seated in a covered grandstand.

Other places in the world which have similar "Sound and Light" shows include Versailles and the Chateaux of the Loire Valley in France, Hampton Court and the Tower of London in Britain, the Acropolis in Greece, and the Pyramids and the Sphinx in Egypt.