

15 MAR 1997

Mahathir-Award

DR MAHATHIR RECEIVES AWARD FROM RAJA OF PERLIS

KANGAR, March 15 (Bernama) -- The Raja of Perlis conferred the Royal Excellence Award (Tuanku Raja Perlis) on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Balai Rong Seri, Istana Arau, here today.

Dr Mahathir is the first person to receive the award, the highest given by the Tuanku Syed Putra Perlis Foundation, in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions to the people and the nation.

Present were the Raja Perempuan of Perlis, the Raja Muda and the Raja Puan Muda, the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and his wife, Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohamedd Yassin.

Dr Mahathir was announced recipient of the award on Dec 5 last year in conjunction with the Raja of Perlis' golden jubilee celebration.

The Raja Muda of Perlis, who is also the foundation chairman, said the award was the highest token of appreciation not only from the foundation and the Raja of Perlis but also from all the people of the state.

On information technology (IT), Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could not stay still and watch its development without making any preparation, or it would be left behind like the other nations which had previously rejected industrialisation.

"Hence, the government has set up the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) to attract foreign and local investors to locate their multimedia activities in this country and we believe that by making early preparations for the IT age Malaysia will continue to progress," he said.

"What is need to ensure the success of this latest endeavour is the support of all parties," he added.

Earlier, a foundation board member, Tan Sri Prof Awang Had Salleh delivered the citation on Dr Mahathir.

Besides the award, the prime minister also received RM10,000 each from the foundation and the Perlis government and a suit of clothing. -- BERNAMA

IQ JK