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More than 20,000 people attend charity dinner

SEREMBAN, Mon. - More than 20,000 people thronged the Seremban Municipal Council's grounds tonight for the Mawar Haemodialysis Centre's charity dinner where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was guest of honour.

A total of 2,020 tables were laid out for the open-air dinner where about RM10 million in donations was collected from 15 donors.

The donations included one for RM2 million from Talam Corporation Bhd chairman and group managing director Datuk Chan Ah Chye and RM1 million from Roadbuilders (M) Holdings chairman Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Ismail.

Also present at the dinner were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad, his wife Puan Seri Hazizah Tumin, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

Dr Mahathir had opened the haemodialysis centre in Jalan Rasah, this afternoon. The centre, which has 15 haemodialysis machines so far, will provide treatment for poor kidney patients at affordable prices.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had prospered over the years as the people believed in racial unity.

He said the Barisan Nasional Government, which believed in the equal distribution of wealth, would continue to bring progress to the nation.

Earlier, Dr Ling said the Government's pragmatic policies coupled with the people's hard work had earned worldwide recognition for the country.

"However, our challenge in years to come is to maintain the buoyant economy," he said.

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