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PM honoured with music score in Penang's biggest street party

PENANG, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was honoured last night with a music score of the Malay evergreen Getaran Jiwa for recent awards conferred on him during Penang's biggest street party.

Although Dr Mahathir was unable to open the week-long Penang International Food Festival yesterday due to a bout of flu, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Koon announced the presentation of the gift to the crowd of nearly 20,000 who turned up for the Street Party 1997 held at Lebu Light.

The gift, a special music score of the song composed and made famous by the late P. Ramlee, was presented to Koh for the Prime Minister by Penang State Symphony Orchestra/Chorus conductor Mark Ostyn.

"The organisers of the festival wanted to present a token of appreciation to the Prime Minister for being bestowed with four awards which include the King Faisal and Nehru awards," Koh said when launching the food festival.

In thanking Dr Mahathir for his leadership in guiding the country towards economic growth, social development and national unity, Koh said a leader could only lead effectively "as much as the people want him to achieve".

"This statement is a reflection of the leadership qualities and humility of our beloved Prime Minister," Koh added.

In congratulating the people of Penang for making the island State known for good food, heritage, high-tech industries and other tourist attractions, Koh said it was also the people and their hospitality which made Penang famous.

"We have set a new record tonight by holding this huge party and should use this opportunity to promote unity and co-operation among us to achieve the aspirations of Vision 2020."

Also present were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar, State Tourism Committee chairman Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen, State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahaya Hamid, State Executive Councillors and Assemblymen.

The event, jointly organised by the State Government and the Penang Development Corporation, included a dinner comprising international cuisines from 14 hotels in the State and over 90 stalls dishing up Penang's famous hawker fare like laksa, ais kacang, char kuay teow, pasembur and nasi kandar.

The street party was organised to promote Penang as the nation's food capital.

Artistes Erra Fazira and Mindy Quah along with several dance troupes kept the crowd entertained till midnight.

The event has been slotted for listing in the Malaysia Book of Records as the biggest street party.

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