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Schoolboy's words of admiration for PM wins him bungalow lot

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - A 12-year-old boy won a bungalow lot worth more than RM200,000 when his missive of admiration for the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was selected as the best message in a contest.

Chang Peng-Joo of Bandar Utama said it took him three hours to come up with the message.

His winning entry reads: "Congratulations. Thanks a million. All Malaysians applaud your Vision. You deserve a standing ovation. The world at last recognises our nation. We salute you for making us proud Malaysians."

Peng-Joo said he admired Dr Mahathir for his leadership quality and the ability to propel the country to greater heights.

Themed "This Land is My Land", the contest was held last year in conjunction with the 39th Merdeka celebrations.

It was organised by the Lion Group and Kelab Cinta Malaysia with an aim of reviving a sense of patriotism among Malaysians as well as to commemorate 39 years of independence.

"I admired and salute him for all the things that he has done for our country. I wish I can meet him some day and express my admiration to him personally," he said after receiving the prizes from National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaeha Ismail at Subang Parade today.

Peng-Joo was accompanied by his aunt, Stephanie Tan.

His father, a scientist with the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and mother, a technologist at Universiti Malaya, were in Hong Kong on holiday.

"My parents encouraged me to take part in the contest," he said.

Besides the grand prize, the first prize of RM8,000 worth of Electrolux kitchen products was won by Gary Chan of Petaling Jaya while the second prize of an IBM-Aptiva Mega Multimedia computer worth RM5,000 went to Saharol Suman of Klang.

Earlier, Zaleha said society, especially those members from the corporate sector and younger generation, must take pride in Malaysia's achievement.

She said on-going campaigns were important as it was one way of getting the public to participate and express love for the country.

"It is important to instil the feeling of being proud to be Malaysians, especially among youths as they will be the leaders of tomorrow," she added.

She said although it was still early, Malaysians should gear up for the coming Merdeka celebrations.

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