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A nostalgic meeting

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Nearly five decades ago, a student used to hand in homework to his class teacher. Last night, the student again faced his teacher, but under quite different surroundings.

The student had become Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister.

The teacher was not forgotten and when they met after all these years, he had something to hand his teacher: a souvenir.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad met "Master" Ismail Ibrahim at a dinner celebrating the 75th anniversary of his alma mater, the Sultan Abdul Hamid College (SAHC) of Alor Star.

Dr Mahathir said Encik Ismail had taught him in Standard Two. He also presented a souvenir to Mr John Augustin, the son of another former teacher, Mr J.F. Augustin.

Dr Mahathir, in a jovial and informal mood, recited from memory verses of a poem he remembered from SAHC days.

Called Lament of an Examination Candidate, the poem, written by a student for the school's yearly magazine Darulaman, bemoans the plight of a student facing the final examinations.

Dr Mahathir said the poem was "unforgettable" and in difficult times when he was a medical student, he would recall the verses to cheer himself up.

- New Straits Times, Feb 26, 1984