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Dr M: Propel MAS to greater success

PETALING JAYA, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on employees of Malaysia Airlines to propel the national carrier to greater success, comparable to other major international airlines.

He said the success of the airline was a source of pride not only for the employees but also for the nation.

"We hope that Malaysia Airlines will continue to grow by flying to more destinations and bringing in more tourists to the country," he told a huge crowd during the airline's Family Day celebrations held at the MPPJ Stadium.

Dr Mahathir said MAS had come a long way from being a small airline that served domestic routes to one with a large modern fleet.

He said MAS had expanded since it separated from Malaysia-Singapore Airlines Ltd in 1971.

Now the airline has more than 100 aircraft and serves 116 destinations - its latest being Xiamen in China.

Dr Mahathir said at the beginning, it was thought that a small country like Malaysia did not need a large airline.

"It was thought that international air services should be left in the hands of those (airlines) from bigger and more developed countries."

However, Dr Mahathir said MAS had since grown to become an airline the country could be proud of.

Dr Mahathir also praised the airline for organising the Family Day, saying that the celebrations could instil a sense of belonging and pride among the employees and their families.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, and MAS chairman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli.

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