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Mahathir-Clock out

DR MAHATHIR CLOCKS OUT FOR THE LAST TIME AT HIS KL OFFICE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today clocked out for the last time at his old office at the Prime Minister's Department (JPM) in Jalan Datuk Onn here.

Dr Mahathir will be clocking in at his new office in Putrajaya come Monday.

Dressed in a light-brown Malay suit, Dr Mahathir had earlier clocked in at 7.57am and after signing several documents he clocked out at 8.49am.

He then left for the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali who was dressed in a red and white baju kurung.

A doa selamat was said by one of his staffers after he clocked out. Before that the Prime Minister and his wife posed for photographs with several of the staff members.

"I have been attending Cabinet meetings here for 25 years since the time of (the second Prime Minister the late) Tun (Abdul) Razak (Hussein) ... so there are lots of memories," he told Bernama as he was leaving the old office.

"And, I do hope that we will preserve this (place) because it has historical connotation with all the governments of independent Malaysia from the time of the Tunku," he said.

He said it undoubtedly had historic importance which the future generation could benefit from.

"I hope our future generation will learn so that they will cherish their history, their origin and the people like the Tunku, Tun Razak and Tun Hussein Onn, all of whom who had done so much for the country," he added.

Dr Mahathir hoped the people would always remember the place as the first seat of the Federal Government.

Asked if he was feeling sentimental and nostalgic about it, the Prime Minister admitted he did.

"Well, I know ... I do feel it because I'm so familiar with this place, the place where I come to every morning and never failed to clock in by eight o'clock and punched my card," he said.

He said in his new office in Putrajaya he would be given a little leeway in that he could clock in by 8.15am.

-- BERNAMA

MNY AAM