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PM's sharp repartee causes laughter

SEREMBAN, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has always been known as a leader who is able to tackle any question on almost any subject with ease.

He proved his prowess again during a dialogue with some 2,000 State assemblymen and government employees at the Municipal Council hall here today.

This happened when one of the civil servants, who was the last to ask him a question at the function, proposed that government employees who had served 25 years be given tax exemption when buying a national car.

Pausing for a while, Dr Mahathir, who was up on the stage, said under the current (economic) situation, it would be difficult for him to commit.

"Jawab salah, tak jawab pun salah (It is difficult to answer, but also difficult not to). Anyway, thank you for the suggestion," Dr Mahathir said and returned to his seat, causing those present to roar with laughter.

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