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Mahathir-Happiness

ACHIEVEMENT AND MARRIAGE MAKE MAHATHIR HAPPY

By: Tham Choy Lin

HONG KONG, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- What makes Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad happy?

"Watching things happening that you set out to do is what gives happiness and, of course, next to marrying my wife," he replied when the question was posed by a woman guest during a luncheon hosted by the Malaysian Association for him, here, today.

His quip drew more laughter and a round of applause from the 100-odd guests and smiles from his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who was also present.

They arrived today for an overnight working visit by Dr Mahathir who has been invited to deliver the keynote address at the Asia Society gala dinner.

"This is a variation of the usual question of looking young. But I think if you see the things that you set out to do actually happening, that gives happiness. It is a sense of achievement actually," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he decided that during his tenureship, he wanted to move Malaysia forward at a much faster rate and one of the way was through privatisation.

"The country has moved ahead much faster and to me, that is what gives me satisfaction. Every evening on Saturday and Sunday, I drive around Kuala Lumpur to see how things are getting on, and of course, to see how much has been achieved which gives me a great deal of pleasure," he said.

But he also took notes during such drives and would refer matters which were dissatisfactory to the relevant Cabinet ministers, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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