

# PM fulfils one of Pathma's last wishes

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MALACCA, Tues. One of the last wishes of the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban was for the prime minister to declare open the Melaka-Manipal Medical College, which was his brainchild. His wish came true today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, when officiating the opening, paid tribute to Pathmanaban for his tireless efforts in setting up the college.

"Pathma worked very hard, day and night and put all his energy into the setting up of this college. He was able to realise his dream, and also our dream. The country owes a great deal to his efforts. We need more people with his dreams and drive for things to progress," he said.

Pathmanaban died on June 10.

According to his son Prashant, Pathmanaban felt he may not be around to witness the official opening of the college.

"The PM visited him when he was sick and my

father asked him for a personal favour. My father was one person who did not ask for favours. He asked the PM to open the college and the PM is here today. He would have been very proud," he said.

"He was very concerned about them going to study abroad and wanted them to be responsible in their studies. He understood about having fun but said they must also be responsible at the same time.

"My father realised during his tenure in the Health Ministry that the country needed more doctors. So he looked for a college that was not only known for its excellence but was also affordable."

The president and chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Dr Ramdas Pai announced in his speech that a Gold Medal in Pathmanaban's name will be awarded annually to the best student. Pai also said that the college auditorium will be named the Datuk K. Pathmanaban Hall.