

PM turns poet, captivates audiences at Pesta Puisi

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PUTRAJAYA, Wed. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today captivated the audience when he recited a poem entitled *Di Atas Runtuhan Kota Melaka Kita Dirikan Putrajaya* (On the ruins of Kota Melaka we built Putrajaya) at Pesta Puisi Patriotik 2001.

The Prime Minister's five-minute declamation centred on his lamentation that the Malays had not learnt from the country's history of 450 years under colonial rule. He also said it was hoped that Putrajaya, named after first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, would become the national symbol of an independent race.

The Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also recited a poem entitled *Puteri Negara*, while national laureate Datuk A. Samad Said recited *Di Sisi Menara*.

The event was organised by the National Civic Bureau of the Prime Minister's Department, while the main sponsor was Tenaga Nasional Bhd.

Earlier Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman launched an album entitled *Perjuangan yang belum selesai*.

Others who participated included Datin Seri Maznah Rais, wife of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Rais Yatim, Professor Datuk Mohamed Mansor Abdullah, Muhammad Izz Taufiq and Abdul Ghafar Ibrahim.