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College head pays tribute to Dr Mahathir

MALACCA, Tues. - The setting up of the Melaka-Manipal Medical College is a manifestation of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's efforts to promote South-South co-operation.

President and Chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Learning Dr Ramdas M. Pai said today Dr Mahathir's vision for social development had inspired many to accomplish new heights in education.

He also lauded Dr Mahathir's vision and statesmanship which call for greater efforts to pursue the tasks of social upliftment and nation building.

"The inauguration today is the culmination of a long journey which began in 1993 with the signing of an agreement in New Delhi between Dr Mahathir and then Indian Prime Minister Shri PV Narasimha Rao," he added.

He said this during the inauguration of the MMMC at its campus in Bukit Baru today.

Built at a cost of about RM50 million, the MMMC is owned and managed by JVVC Sdn Bhd, a joint venture company with Yayasan Melaka Education, MEMG International and the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban as its partners.

The college offers a twinning MBBS programme including 2 1/2 years of pre-clinical training in at the International Centre for Health Sciences , followed by three years of clinical teaching and training at the Malacca, Muar Hospitals.

In his speech, Pai also announced the naming of the college's auditorium as the Datuk K. Pathmanaban Hall, in memory of the late former deputy minister's role in the setting up of the college.

He said the Manipal Academy of Higher Education will also endow a Gold Medal in his name to be awarded annually to its best outgoing student.

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