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Dinner event with 25,000 enters record book

MALACCA, Mon. - Malacca created history once again when more than 25,000 people from all walks of life attended a dinner hosted by State Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam at Dataran Sejarah, Ayer Keroh, tonight.

The "Majlis Makan Malam Rakyat" was graced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The function was held in conjunction with Dr Mahathir's 20 years in office as Prime Minister.

The event set a record for having the largest number of people attending a dinner, with 2,500 tables laid out.

This was certified by The Malaysia Book of Records, which listed the event in the human achievement category.

This supercedes the previous record of 2,255 tables at a dinner organised by the Negri Sembilan BN on Aug 12, 1999.

Malaysia Book of Records managing director Danny Ooi later presented the certificate of endorsement to Dr Mahathir.

There was also a colourful display of ethnic dances which were performed by members of the Peranakan, Portuguese, Orang Asli and Malay communities.

At the finale to the grand gathering, a 10-minute fireworks display lit up the night sky.

During the function, the Prime Minister handed over a cheque for RM100,000 for the New Straits Times Dewan Tunku Canselor Restoration Fund to NST group editor Datuk Ahmad A. Talib.

Of the amount, RM11,713 was collected at the function tonight.

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