

29 Aug 2001

Mahathir-Poem

DR M RECITES NEW POEM AT PATRIOTIC GATHERING

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recited his new poem entitled "Di Atas Runtuhan Kota Melaka Kita Dirikan Putrajaya" (On the ruins of Kota Melaka, we built Putrajaya) at the Patriotic Poetry Festival 2001 in Taman Putra Perdana here tonight.

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 the country's founding father, would become the national symbol of an independent race.

Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali also recited a poem entitled "Puteri Negara" at the gathering which was organised by the National Civics Bureau of the Prime Minister's Department.

Earlier, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman launched an album entitled "Perjuangan yang belum selesai" (The unfinished struggle) which was produced by Datuk Wah Idris.

Sung by Nora, it contains lines from a poem of Dr Mahathir with the same title.

Among others who recited poems tonight were National Laureate Datuk A. Samad Said, educationist Tan Sri Dr Awang Had Salleh and Datin Seri Maznah, the wife of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

-- BERNAMA

HK MHI YBY