

12 APR 2002

Mahathir-Award

DR M RECEIVES AWARD FROM KELANTAN SULTAN

KOTA BAHARU, April 12 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today conferred the Darjah Kerabat Yang Amat Dihormati (DK) award by the Sultan of Kelantan.

The award was bestowed on the Prime Minister in conjunction with the Sultan's 52nd birthday, which was celebrated on March 30.

The investiture ceremony was held at Istana Balai Besar here at 5pm.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, was on a one-day visit to the state.

Present at the ceremony were the Raja Perempuan of Kelantan, The Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan, Kelantan Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

In his speech, the Sultan thanked the federal government for giving Kelantan big allocations under the Eighth Malaysia Plan.

"It is an undeniable fact that lack of infrastructure and public amenities is the main factor for a state and country to be backward and left behind," he said.

He expressed confidence that with the high level of commitment shown by the federal government to provide infrastructure like the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport new terminal building in Pengkalan Chepa here, Jalan Blau-Lojing, Jalan Pesisir Pantai and bridges, Kelantan would be in the mainstream of development.

He is thankful that Kelantan and the country have remained peaceful and prosperous.

"This peace and security did not come by accident but through hardwork with the blessings of Allah," he said.

He advised the people not to do anything that can destroy the peace and stability in the country.

-- BERNAMA

BD YBY