

04/07/2002

Thousands gather at Subang RMAF base to show love, support for Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Malaysians from all walks of life thronged the Subang RMAF base from as early as 5am today to express their love and support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We were sad when he announced his resignation, but happy now that he would still be with the party even after he resigns," said Hasinam Mat Isa, from Kubang Pasu.

She was among the thousands who waited patiently since 5am to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister when he arrived at the RMAF base from his 10-day holiday abroad.

Hasinam's feelings were echoed by others who gathered there, many of them leaving their homes from as far as Johor and Perlis last night to ensure they arrived in time to greet Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir had on June 22, announced his resignation from the post of party president and Barisan Nasional chairman at the 56th Umno Annual General Assembly.

"Of course we do not want him to go. But now that he is going to stay in the party, we are happy." Hasinam said.

She added that her delegation had to rush back to Kubang Pasu as Dr Mahathir was expected to visit them later in the evening.

Yew Kok Hoe from Penang, 56, said it was still hard for him to accept the Prime Minister's resignation.

"He took care of all of us, all the races in this country. He has raised the country and our standing and will be sorely missed," said Ong.

Krishnan Munusamy from Ipoh said he was willing to miss a whole day's work just to see the Prime Minister, adding that he, had also waited at the airport since 5am.

Another resident of Perak, Ahmad Osman, 56, said he was hoping if Dr Mahathir saw the crowd gathered today, he would be convinced of the need for him to stay.

"Malaysians of every colour have come out to see him. It just shows how much he is loved by all quarters in the country."

Datuk Ong Keat Leong who led a 300-member delegation from Penang MCA said Dr Mahathir was a leader who loved the rakyat like he loved his own children.

Shukri Ariff from Kuala Kangsar who did not have enough money to attend the recent Umno Assembly, said for this (to greet Dr Mahathir) he had to come.

"I was watching the World Cup game at home at that time and was switching back and forth between the game and Dr Mahathir's speech. I remember being excited after the game, but cried when he announced he was going to resign."

Napsiah Laili from Lembah Pantai said it was not the Prime Minister's time to go as he is still needed by the country.

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