

29 AUG 2002

Mahathir-Poem

MAHATHIR SPEAKS OF HIS HOPES FOR MALAYS IN POEM

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- The prime minister rendered a poem tonight in which he called on the country's Malays not to be complacent and not to always seek assistance in facing future challenges

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the Malays that they would lose everything including their dignity if they remained disunited.

In the poem entitled "Menghadapi Cabaran: Menatang Bangsa" (Facing Challenges: Caring for the Race), Dr Mahathir also called on the Malays to strive on their own to achieve success.

He urged them as well as other Malaysians not to easily give up in defending Malaysia from any threat that could affect the country's prosperity.

Dr Mahathir presented the poem at the the 3rd Patriotic Poetry Festival organised by the National Civics Bureau, Prime Minister's Department.

The prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Ali, also rendered a poem entitled "Suara Hati (Conscience).

Others who read out their poems included Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman and National Literary Laureate A.Samad Said.

At the ceremony, Dr Mahathir received the Jalur Gelilang from Mohd Rawi Mat Isa, the leader of a group that walked non stop over a 560km distance from Melaka to Putrajaya.

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