

31 OCT 2002

Megat Junid-Mahathir

MEGAT JUNID ON DR MAHATHIR'S SUCCESS

ALOR STAR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob today returned to the school where he first taught 39 years ago and shared a few secrets of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's success with the parents, teachers and pupils.

He said there were five major lessons he learnt from the prime minister in the 25 years he served under him -- punctuality, priority, focus, good memory and commitment to the job.

Megat Junid was special officer to Dr Mahathir when the latter was the Education Minister in 1975 and remained in the government until his retirement as Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister in 1999.

Speaking at the Speech Day of Sekolah Kebangsaan Telok Kechai, here, he said that first of all, Dr Mahathir was punctual.

"From the time he started as Education Minister until now, his punch-card has never recorded red marks," he said.

Dr Mahathir also knew his priorities on any working day and was always focused on the task at hand, he added.

Fourthly, he said, Dr Mahathir had a very good memory and knew his job.

"Dr Mahathir is hands-on in every area of his work. On one occasion, Dr Mahathir commented about the dirty toilets to a director, during the opening ceremony of an immigration office at Bukit Kayu Hitam, and gave a fortnights' notice to rectify the situation, he said.

Two weeks later, Dr Mahathir returned to do a spot check and found the toilet conditions were no different and so disciplinary action was taken against the director, he said.

Fifthly, Dr Mahathir was thoroughly committed to his work, he added.

"Dr Mahathir never raises his voice when dealing with his subordinates," he said.

He said he was sharing his experiences with the parents, teachers and pupils because he wanted them to adopt positive traits to achieve success.

Megat Junid, who taught English at the school for six years from 1963, said parents should prioritise the education of their children as it was the most valuable investment.

"My mother struggled because she had to tap rubber to educate her children. My mother would never have dreamt of making the haj trip to Mecca if she had continued to tap rubber. However, because she provided her children with education, we were able to send her for the haj seven times," he said.

At the function, Megat Junid also made a RM5,000 personal donation to equip the school with musical instruments.

-- BERNAMA

JM VRN JK