

Remember the past to know where we are going, says PM

Nst 19 JUL 2009
KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Please
remember the past; because only if
we remember the past will we know
where we are going — whether for-
ward or backward.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr
Mahathir Mohamad uttered these
pearls of wisdom tonight, when he
took a path down memory lane, re-
living his schooldays.

“Before becoming Prime Minister,
there were many hurdles I and the
people around me had to go through.

“I remember our schooldays when
we had to sit on the floor because
there were no chairs . . . but if that
were to happen now, parents would
complain right-up to the Education
Minister,” he said to laughter from
the audience.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the
Malam Darul Aman organised by the
Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegian
Association (SAHOCA), an event
themed “Jom Saja2 Nostalgia”.

The event was organised to thank
the Prime Minister for his leadership
and was attended by mostly Kedah
residents.

Dr Mahathir, who spoke in the
Kedah dialect and peppered his
speech with funny anecdotes, said
when younger, his ambition was to
be a lawyer as law students had the
chance to study in England.

“But I decided to be a doctor be-
cause I was more interested in poli-
tics and the MBBS title which would
follow my name would impress peo-
ple,” he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is SAHOCA
president, said he did not expect to
become Prime Minister when he
started selling fried bananas in his
youth.

“But that does not mean any ‘goreng
pisang’ seller can become Prime
Minister,” he joked, but added he
was happy he fulfilled his ambitions.

“(But) it has been 22 years . . . it is
enough, so I want to step down in
October,” he said.

The event was also held to collect
donations for building the Dewan
Perhimpunan Melayu Kedah. Dr
Mahathir presented certificates of
appreciation to sponsors and con-
tributors of the building fund.