

Mahathir: Don't go overboard with praise

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KAJANG: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the people not to go overboard when heaping praises on him until it became deifying.

"We should be thankful for praises but I hope that they do not go to the extent of *mendewa-dewakan* (deifying).

"I believe that I have not contributed any more or less than other Umno leaders," he said in his speech during a ceremony organised by Puteri Umno to thank him at Universiti Tenaga Nasional near here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said it would have been impossible for him to implement everything by himself had it not been for the help of his colleagues and members of Umno Youth, Wanita Umno, the main party, Barisan Nasional component parties and Malaysians who had given him full support.

He said he was relieved that he could retire without any

worries because there were groups like Puteri Umno which would take over from the older generation who should make way for them.

Before the formation of Puteri Umno, he said, he had concerns that Umno might not have subsequent generations to inherit the party.

However, since the wing's formation, it had become clear that the younger generation was prepared to take over.

"I believe those in Puteri Umno will not be greedy and vie for positions unless they are qualified," he said.

He added that he was sure they would be patient and equip themselves with the skills and knowledge needed to enable them to continue with Umno's struggle.

"This is the hope of those from the older generation who have to withdraw themselves and I am sure Puteri Umno will not disappoint them," he said.

Referring to the poem *Ayahanda* that was read out in his honour during the ceremony, Dr Mahathir said Puteri Umno should not harbour any lack of confidence in its ability to continue Umno's struggle as reflected in the poem.

"I would like to say that Puteri Umno should not be unsure. In fact, they will be the generation which will continue with Umno's struggle effectively," he said.

During the ceremony, Dr Mahathir received a 5.5km banner which was filled with over 52,000 signatures of Malaysians expressing thanks to him.

Puteri Umno had been collecting the signatures since June.

The banner, which made it to the *Malaysia Book of Records* for being the longest signed banner, was handed over by Puteri Umno chief Datuk Azalina Othman Said.