

30 OCT 2003
Melaka-Dr Mahathir
10,000 SAY THANKS TO DR MAHATHIR

MELAKA, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Some 10,000 State and Federal civil servants gathered at several functions here today to record their thanks to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will be stepping down as Prime Minister tomorrow.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Ali Rustam led a gathering of 3,000 civil servants at Auditorium Seri Negeri this morning. Also present were the State Secretary, Datuk Ahmad Rusli Joharie, and senior State officials.

The function began with a "doa selamat" and the recital of the poem "Atas Runtuhan Kota Melaka Kita Dirikan Putrajaya", (On The Ruins of Melaka, We Build Putrajaya) penned by Dr Mahathir himself.

In his speech, Mohamed Ali said Dr Mahathir, during his 22 years as the Prime Minister, was instrumental in turning Melaka into one of the rapidly-developing States in Malaysia.

"If previously Melaka is known as a sleepy hollow, with assistance from Dr Mahathir and the Federal Government, there have been tremendous changes (in the State) in terms of economy and development," he said.

After the Chief Minister's speech, all of them sang "Pahlawanku" as a tribute to Dr Mahathir.

Earlier, Ahmad Rusli thanked the Prime Minister for his contributions in improving the civil services in Melaka.

Other gatherings were also held simultaneously at other venues, led by the respective State Executive Councillors and departmental heads.

-- BERNAMA
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