

27 JAN 2003

Mahathir-Bakti

MALAYSIANS ARE MOST FORTUNATE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- Malaysians are most fortunate because there are no groups who are too poor or suppressed to the extent that they have no money to eat or are dying of hunger as is happening in some other countries, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said this is because there are people who are sensitive to the problems of the poor in this country and are willing to give assistance and contributions.

"Alhamdulillah (thank God), our country is fortunate with massive resources. This enables us to give aid and look after the less fortunate group," he said.

The Prime Minister said this in his message in the souvenir book in conjunction with BAKTI's (Charity Organisation of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers) 25th anniversary and award dinner. Dr Mahathir is the patron of BAKTI.

He also attended the dinner held at a hotel, here tonight.

In his message, Dr Mahathir said that as a charity organisation led by and made up of wives of national leaders, BAKTI has succeeded to carry out government policies emphasising on the concept of a carrying society.

"Although it is at a rather young age, BAKTI as a charity body has proven its success in helping the less fortunate group through the various contributions and aid channelled to the various groups," said the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile Dr Mahathir's wife and BAKTI president, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali said in his speech that the organisation will continue with its efforts to assist the various groups in the country such as looking after the welfare of and giving assistance to victims of natural disasters and providing scholarship to students.

She also thanked the various groups including companies which have all this while given donations and other assistance to enable BAKTI to carry out its activities.

The dinner was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers, parliamentary secretaries, menteri besar and chief ministers.

Relating BAKTI's history, Dr Siti Hasmah said from a committee when it was first set up, the charity body now has six sub-committees to carry out its various activities.

Mooted by Tun Suhaila Mohd Noah, wife of Malaysia's third Prime Minister Tun Hussein Onn, BAKTI was set up on May 16, 1977.

At the function, Dr Mahathir also launched BAKTI's new logo. Music at the function was provided by the Kuala Lumpur City Hall combo.

Dr Mahathir was also awarded with the Patron's Award by Dr Siti Hasmah.

Dr Siti Hasmah received the President's Award and Long Service Medal while Endon was one of the three recipients of the Vice-President's Awards. Tun Suhaila was declared as the recipient of the founder award category.

In addition, Dr Mahathir also gave away awards to the recipients of the various other categories.

-- BERNAMA

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