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Exhibition-PM

MIXED SENTIMENTS AT EXHIBITION ON DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- "Impressed and sad", "Thank you Dr Mahathir", "Impossible to forget", these are some of the comments made by visitors to the photography exhibition "One Thousand Faces of Dr Mahathir" at the National Art Gallery, Jalan Tun Razak, which entered its third day today.

A Bernama survey of the exclusive exhibition in recognition of the deeds and sacrifices of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad throughout his tenure as Prime Minister found that it had attracted all strata of society regardless of race and age.

Students and youths made up the largest number of visitors to the exhibition so far.

Three form six students of Sekolah Menengah Puteri Titiwangsa, Elly Shazana, Rathiga and Norjana Abdul Kadir, described the exhibition as something very meaningful to students.

"We were born and we grew up under Dr Mahathir's administration. The country's development and the international recognition for Malaysia make us proud. Thank you PM," said Elly.

"I like most of all the photograph of the PM's wife (Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali) pouring a drink for Dr Mahathir at home. It's a picture of warmth between a husband and wife who have made enormous contribution towards the country's development," added Rathiga.

The fact is that the exhibition gives various impacts to the visitors.

"I am amazed at Dr Mahathir's capabilities. The exhibition gives us an opportunity look back at all the work he has done. But I'm also sad because he will retire, we hope he will still contribute to the country's progress after retiring," said Salmah Noor, 58, a former administrative officer from Penang.

Among the photographs that touched the visitors was the one where Dr Mahathir declared his intention to retire from all posts at the Umno general assembly in 2002.

A housewife, Hafida Mohd Isa said the photograph was the one that captured her interest most.

"Looking at the picture, it reminds me how surprised the people were with the announcement by the PM to retire. I am now beginning to feel the loss (following Dr Mahathir's impending retirement). If possible, I want the PM to continue serving for Malaysia," she said.

Chong Chin Perng, 19, a student from Kedah, who merely wanted to look at Dr Mahathir's photographs, said: "The rakyat truly love him. The PM is a good leader. The rakyat will find it difficult to forget him. I hope he can rest after his retirement," she said.

Wirdat Alias, 21, a student from Puchong said Dr Mahathir's charisma as a statesman was apparent in the photographs displayed.

"I seldom read newspapers or listen to the news. This exhibition gives us a chance to recollect all the efforts made by Dr Mahathir. I'm certainly amazed at his determination," he said.

According to the exhibition's receptionist, Hazumi Abdullah, as at 4pm today, the number of visitors had reached 6,000.

Most of the visitors wanted the organisers to sell biographies on the Prime Minister for them to purchase as remembrance while some even suggested that a visitor's book be provided for them to express their appreciation to the Prime Minister.

The photo exhibition, which will run for two months, displays more than 500 photographs printed on canvas and 500 more in the form of multimedia and collages recorded by local media cameramen.

The exhibition, organised jointly by the Ministry of Information, BERNAMA, National Art Gallery and local mass media, will end on Dec 6.

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