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Mahathir-Wedding

PM HOSTS RECEPTION FOR NEWLYWED COUPLE OF SERI PERDANA

PUTRAJAYA, June 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today threw a wedding reception for two staff of the prime minister's official residence who became husband and wife recently.

The reception, the first of its kind held at the Seri Perdana Complex here, was also attended by Dr Mahathir's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The couple, Azhar Md Rus, 24, and Norlela Johar, 23, were married on May 22 this year but Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah could not attend their wedding, which was held in Kedah.

At today's ceremony, Azhar also sportingly serenaded his bride with a Hindi song, which was much appreciated by those present.

The event also turned into a farewell reception of sorts, with Dr Mahathir, who will step down in October, thanking Seri Perdana staff for the excellent service they had rendered.

"My wife and I are very happy with the service rendered by them. They have done a very good job in maintaining this complex and sometimes have to work late into the night.

"I am very indebted to all who work here and, together with my wife, I would like to extend a big thank you to them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he did not know whether the existing Seri Perdana staff would continue working at the place after he retires.

"But I hope that if given a chance, they would continue to look after this complex well," he said.

Dr Mahathir jokingly said the chances of holding wedding receptions at Seri Perdana for his two children who are still young were very slim as he would be leaving Seri Perdana in a few months.

"So I am very happy for being able to host a wedding reception at this complex," he said.

When met by reporters, the newlyweds said they were touched by Dr Mahathir's kind gesture in organising the reception.

"We did not ask the prime minister to host this reception for us but he himself wanted to do it," said Norlela.

-- BERNAMA

MAM YBY