

09 AUG 2003

Mahathir-Ambition

THINK BIG AND WORK HARD FOR SUCCESS, SAYS DR M

MELAKA, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The people should not only have big ambitions but should also ensure that their dreams could be realised if they want to gain the respect of others, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said only by adopting such an attitude could the people match the other races in the world.

"I have always explained that we built the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building, to prove to the world that we can build such buildings," he said at a state dinner at the Melaka International Trade Centre (MITC) in Air Keroh here.

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, Cabinet ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers.

Dr Mahathir said other states should respect the Melaka government for thinking big and bringing rapid development to the state, which at one time was known as the sleepy hollow.

"Melaka held the biggest dinner (in open space at Dataran Sejarah last year) attended by 25,000 people, (and) tonight's dinner is the biggest under one roof attended by 12,000 people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the rapid development in Melaka was made possible by the close ties among the people of various races.

"Melaka has changed since the rule of Barisan Nasional (BN). Other states which are bigger will surely respect Melaka for its big ambitions," he said.

At the ceremony, Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah received greetings from the people in conjunction with their 47th wedding anniversary on Aug 6, and cut a cake to the tune of the song "Allah Selamatkan Kamu" sung by those present.

Dr Mahathir also received a RM1 million contribution from donors in Melaka

-- RM700,000 for the Welfare Body of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers

(BAKTI) and RM300,000 for the Welfare Body of Wives of Melaka Elected Representatives (BISTARI).

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah also raised RM100,000 by singing the song "Tinggi-tinggi Terbang Burung".

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam also handed over RM420,000 to Dr Mahathir for the Iraqi People's Humanitarian Fund, which was part of the RM712,000 raised in Melaka. The balance had been given to the fund earlier.

Tonight's dinner, involving 12,000 people, entered the Malaysia Book of Records as the biggest dinner in a building. The event ended with a 10-minute fireworks display.

-- BERNAMA

SBS NO YBY