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Mahathir-Doctorate

BANDUNG UNIVERSITY TO CONFER HONORARY DOCTORATE ON DR MAHATHIR

By: Openg Onn

JAKARTA, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir

Mohamad will be conferred an honorary doctorate in economic development by the state-owned Padjadjaran University in Bandung, its secretary, Suhaimie, said today.

He said when contacted from here that Dr Mahathir would receive the award at a special convocation to be held on Friday (Feb 6), at the university's Graha Sanusi Hardjadinata Hall.

He said that the conferment of the award, decided by the university's Valuation Committee headed by its Economics Faculty dean, Prof Dr H. Suropto Samid, was in recognition of Dr Mahathir's prominent role in turning Malaysia into a model country through sound economic engineering.

The former prime minister had won the hearts and respect of Indonesians as an icon and the voice not just for his country but also Asia against the domineering Western powers, he said.

Other world figures who have received similar awards from the university, founded in 1957, were the late Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and the late Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh.

Suhaimie, who goes by a single name like most Indonesians, said that Dr Mahathir would arrive in Bandung, capital of the West Java province, 180 km south-east of Jakarta, from Kuala Lumpur on that day for an overnight stay.

He would perform Friday prayers at the university's mosque after the special convocation and later attend a dialogue with some 100 Malaysian students at a hotel where he will be staying.

He said that Dr Mahathir would also visit the office and printing plant of a Bandung-based newspaper, "Pikiran Rakyat", before a special interview with a popular Indonesian weekly magazine, "Tempo".

He is also scheduled to be hosted to dinner by West Java Governor Dani Setiawan at the banquet hall of Bank Indonesia's Bandung branch.

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