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Razak had faith in me, says Dr M

By Nisha Sabanayagam

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad admits to having been "quite surprised" when he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister by Tun Hussein Onn in 1975.

He was not that close to Hussein, the country's third Prime Minister, and there were four other candidates in the running.

"I believe I was appointed Deputy Prime Minister because of Tun Abdul Razak," said Dr Mahathir, speaking at a dinner organised by the Yayasan Tun Razak Alumni Association at the Palace of the Golden Horses last night. The topic was "Tun Razak from the perspective of Tun Dr Mahathir".

Dr Mahathir retired as Prime Minister in October 2003 after serving more than 22 years in the nation's top position.

"Just before Tun Razak went to London to get treatment for his health, Tun Razak told Tun Hussein Onn if there were any problems, he was to go to Dr Mahathir. He had faith in me," said Dr Mahathir.

"He devoted his life to the people. He did not spare himself even when he was sick."

He described Razak as a brilliant example of a man who was dedicated to his work, had greatness of heart and was willing to share power. Razak was the country's second Prime Minister, succeeding Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Dr Mahathir encouraged the members of the Yayasan Tun Razak Alumni Association to emulate Razak in ensuring the country's progress and success.

Formed by Yayasan Tun Razak, the association aspires to produce quality leaders for the nation.

(END) Source : New Straits Times