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PM holds annual party for Sahoca members

PUTRAJAYA, Fri. - About 500 people, comprising members of the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegians Association, their spouses and children, gathered for their annual party at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's residence in Seri Perdana today.

The yearly Sahoca event has traditionally been held at Seri Perdana, even when it was still located in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Sahoca president, joked in a lighthearted speech that this could be the last time Sahoca members would be able to meet at his residence, as he is to retire after October.

"This could be the last Sahoca party at the Prime Minister's residence. I hope you find it a memorable one. If you come again next year, I might not be the host."

He said he was very happy to see old and new faces.

"I'm glad to see that some of the older Sahoca members are still surviving today."

Appearing to be in a jovial mood, Dr Mahathir continued his jokes, taking a jab at the Government's own policy on the use of English.

"I'm speaking in English because the Government, I don't know which Government, they say they want us to speak more English now," he said, drawing laughter.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali mingled with guests and posed for photographs.

Sahoca members also surprised Dr Mahathir, whose birthday was on Dec 20, with a cake and by singing "Happy Birthday".