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UTM honorary doctorate for Dr M

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. - Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was conferred an honorary doctorate by Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in Skudai, here today, as a mark of respect for his 22-year "labour of love" for the country as Prime Minister.

The honorary doctorate in the field of management and engineering was presented by UTM Chancellor Sultanah of Johor Sultanah Zanariah at the convocation ceremony held in Dr Mahathir's honour.

Present were UTM pro-chancellors Raja Zarith Sofiah Sultan Idris Shah and Tan Sri Abdullah Ayub, and Dr Mahathir's wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob were also present.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by the Sultanah and other university heads into Dewan Sultan Iskandar before being presented with the university's symbol of authority - the Keris Ganja Seiras Melela.

Vice-chancellor Datuk Mohd Zulkifli Mohd Ghazali hailed Dr Mahathir as the "engineer" of Malaysia's successful modernisation process.

Sultanah Zanariah said the honorary doctorate was UTM's way of honouring Dr Mahathir for his contributions to the country.

"In Johor, the late Sultan Abu Bakar had been hailed as the Father of Modern Johor. For being an extraordinary leader to us, you should be declared the Father of Modern Malaysia," she told Dr Mahathir.