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Chance to pay tribute to past, present Premiers

Anne Francis

SUBANG Jaya Municipal Council has launched a short messaging system, or SMS, tribute to the nation's past and present Prime Ministers at IOI Mall in Puchong, Selangor.

The tribute, a joint venture between the council (MPSJ), Dataran Ganda Sdn Bhd and IOI Mall, projects three million SMSs to be sent to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi by the end of the year.

"The aim is to enable the public to pay tribute to these personalities in the most convenient way," said MPSJ president Abdul Hakim Borhan at the launch last week.

"Anyone from all walks of life, including students, can take part in the tribute.

"I am optimistic that we will be able to reach the target. I know for sure that there people who wish to thank both leaders for their efforts and I think this is the best time to do it."

Also present at the launch were Puchong State Assemblyman Datuk Dr Mohd Satim Diman, Seri Kembangan State Assemblyman Datuk Liew Yuen Keong and IOI Mall manager Ronnie Francis.

Each SMS will cost RM1.50 for every 160 characters typed.

To send an SMS, one has to type in either DRM MPSJ &lt;Message= or PAKLAH MPSJ &lt;Message= and send it to 32833.

"The SMSs will be recorded, bound and then submitted to the two leaders," said Dataran Ganda director Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan.

"With more than seven million mobile phone users in the country, we feel this is the best way to voice our appreciation to the leaders.

"Attractive cash prizes await the 100,000th, 500,000th and one millionth SMS senders. Each will receive RM5,000, RM3,000 and RM1,500 respectively."

Abdullah said the organisers also hoped the tribute would make its way into the Malaysia Book of Records.

At a Press conference held after the launch of the tribute, Abdul Hakim said MPSJ had embarked on efforts to upgrade several of its departments.

"We have sped up the processing period for most of our services like payment of compounds and submission of building plans," he said.

"We have also enlisted the services of six private companies to assist MPSJ in the collection of taxes.

"In that sense, we wish to announce to ratepayers that there will not be any revision or increase on taxes in the coming year."

When asked about complaints from the public on the inefficient counter services by MPSJ staff, Abdul Hakim said he would look into it.

"So far, no complaints of that nature have been directed to me. I would also like to urge the complainants to see me about this because I would like to get to the bottom of the matter.

"It may be true that some of my employees are inefficient but sometimes, it may just be a misunderstanding between my employees and the public. Rather than aggravate the matter by highlighting it to the Press, why not come straight to me and work together to sort out the matter?"

Abdul Hakim said he was serious in making MPSJ a public-friendly office and that there were plans to hold more public etiquette sessions for the staff.