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PM performs fleet review of 46 foreign and local vessels

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad received a glowing tribute yesterday in the form of a touching poem which described him as a beloved "Captain".

Written by Laksamana Madya (Rtd) Tan Sri Abdul Wahab Nawi, the poem was recited by master of ceremonies, Muhammad Amin Abdullah, at the gracing ceremony of the Maritime exhibition at Porto Malai.

Entitled "Tribute to the Great Sailor", the poem touched on the trial and tribulations of a respected ship captain who strove for his crew members.

Dr Mahathir then performed a fleet review of the 46 foreign and local vessels participating in the exhibition.

A fleet review is a naval tradition performed all over the world to honour the navy personnel and ships involved in any gathering.

The Prime Minister was onboard a mega yacht the Al-Khaliq.

The vessels involved in the fleet review were 21 vessels from Royal Malaysian Navy, including its three bigger ships - the KD Mahawangsa, KD Sri Indera Sakti and KD Lekiu - and 17 foreign ships including an Indian battleship, INS Delhi led by Commander Rabinder Kumar Dhowan and France's FNS Marne.

The fleet review also included eight vessels from the Marine Police, Ship Master, Malaysian Customs and Halim Mazmin Berhad's RV Mahsuri, MV Reef Explorer and MV Reef Challenger.

A 19-gun salute was also given in honour of Dr Mahathir who is attending his last Lima as Prime Minister.