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Exhibition on Dr Mahathir attracts 6,000 visitors in two days

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The "A Thousand Faces of Dr Mahathir" exhibition at the National Art Gallery, which opened to the public yesterday, has attracted about 6,000 visitors.

The two-month long exhibition showcases 500 photos and 500 pictures in multimedia and collage form detailing the career of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ili Syazana Johari, 19, said the exhibition was a perfect tribute for the outgoing Prime Minister.

"When I look at the photographs, I feel a kind of kinship, as if I am watching photographs of my own family. The exhibition touches me deeply," she said.

She described the exhibition as "historical" and as a student, she believed the educational value of the exhibits should not be overlooked by her peers.

Sharifah Aeshah Syed Abdullah, a 55-year-old housewife from Ipoh, said being showcased was the other side of Dr Mahathir's personality - as a loving husband and good family man.

"My favourites are those showing him and his family. Often, our view of Dr Mahathir is that of a strict and competent leader, but as I look around, I can see his soft side too."

Volunteer worker Ng Chok Hock, 24, believed the exhibition should be brought overseas for others to see the Prime Minister's achievements.

"Dr Mahathir always spoke on behalf of Third World countries. As we can see here, he never looked out of place even among leaders like former US president Bill Clinton."

Gerard Muthu, 45, found the exhibition was a trip down memory lane.

"I love those old pictures of him. They are very nostalgic. Looking at them makes his retirement more poignant and sad in a way," he said.

Nurul Asyikin Jamalulail, 10, said she always wanted to meet the Prime Minister but never had the chance.

When asked about her favourite photograph, she timidly said she liked Dr Mahathir's smile.

"When I see him smiling, I feel senang hati (glad)," she said.