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We're really proud of you

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali saying goodbye to the thousands of Malaysians who had gathered outside the Prime Minister's Department to bid farewell to the couple.

Walking behind them is Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who was sworn in as the nation's fifth Prime Minister at Istana Negara yesterday.

The crowd braved the scorching heat to wait several hours to show their appreciation to Dr Mahathir, who has been credited with steering the nation towards the path of developed status with his pragmatic and visionary ideas and policies.

After 22 years at the helm, Dr Mahathir planned his retirement, including a smooth transition period, to hand over power to his deputy.

He said apart from writing his memoirs, he had also been invited by institutions in Malaysia and overseas to give lectures.