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Remember the past to know where we are going, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Please remember the past, because only if we remember the past will we know where we are going - whether forward or backward.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad uttered these pearls of wisdom tonight, when he took a path down memory lane, reliving his schooldays.

"Before becoming Prime Minister, there were many hurdles I and the people around me had to go through.

"I remember our schooldays when we had to sit on the floor because there were no chairs ... but if that were to happen now, parents would complain right up to the Education Minister," he said to laughter from the audience.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the Malam Darul Aman organised by the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegian Association (SAHOCA), an event themed "Jom Saja2 Nostalgia".

The event was organised to thank the Prime Minister for his leadership and was attended by mostly Kedah residents.

Dr Mahathir, who spoke in the Kedah dialect and peppered his speech with funny anecdotes, said when younger, his ambition was to be a lawyer as law students had the chance to study in England.

"But I decided to be a doctor because I was more interested in politics and the MBBS title which would follow my name would impress people," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is SAHOCA president, said he did not expect to become Prime Minister when he started selling fried bananas in his youth.

"But that does not mean any 'goreng pisang' seller can become Prime Minister," he joked, but added he was happy he fulfilled his ambitions.

"(But) it has been 22 years ... it is enough, so I want to step down in October," he said.

The event was also held to collect donations for building the Dewan Perhimpunan Melayu Kedah. Dr Mahathir presented certificates of appreciation to sponsors and contributors of the building fund.