

21/10/2003

Send SMS, sign banner or take part in 5km run to honour Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - You can send a short message service, sign on Malaysia's longest banner or take part in a five-kilometre run to honour outgoing Prime Minister and, at the same time, welcome the country's new Prime Minister.

These are the three things the public can participate under a programme called "Dr M, Jasamu Dikenang - Legasi Seorang Lagenda", launched by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk M. Kayveas today.

"We know there are many programmes going on to bid farewell to our beloved Prime Minister, and this is only proper because it is our responsibility as Malaysians to thank Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his excellent service of 22 years," said Kayveas.

He said under Dr Mahathir's leadership, Malaysia had been put on the world map, its successes becoming the envy of many world leaders.

"But what is far more important is we can be proud that we are living in harmony and are united despite the different races ... this is the result of Dr Mahathir's leadership," said Kayveas.

"We should be very thankful and blessed to have a leader like him. Not many countries are as lucky as ours. Dr Mahathir is the nation's architect, chief executive officer and the best salesman Malaysia ever had. We shall miss him."

Members of the public can send their SMS until Dec 6. The messages will be shown on TV1 and will eventually be compiled into a book to be handed to Dr Mahathir and his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Members of the public can register by typing PM1 Daftar (full name) and sending it to 39888. Each SMS will cost 50 sen.

The banner signing will begin on Saturday. Malaysians can put their signatures on a 330m x 80m cloth banner which will be presented to Dr Mahathir.

The five-km run will take place on Saturday at Dataran Merdeka and entry forms have been distributed to the public.

Also on the same day, there will be a drawing competition for children from as young as four years old to adults aged 50 and above. The winning entry will be given to Dr Mahathir.

On Dec 6, there will be a "Time Tunnel" exhibition on Dr Mahathir's life and his contributions at Dataran Merdeka.

It will be followed by a multimedia presentation by Malaysia's heroes such as Datuk Azhar Mansor, the first Malaysian to sail solo around the world, and Datuk Malek Mydin, the first Malaysian to swim across the English Channel.