

29/10/2003

#### Tribute from six million students

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Almost six million students and members of the education fraternity will be showing their appreciation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday in simultaneous assemblies to be held in all schools and educational institutes nationwide.

Education director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat said the assemblies would begin at 9am.

They will include a special message from Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad to be read out in marking the historic occasion of Dr Mahathir's retirement.

He said Dr Mahathir's retirement on Friday should be celebrated as a sign of remembrance and respect for his exemplary leadership of the country for 22 years.

A special message from Abdul Rafie and an open letter from all the students in Malaysia will also be read out during the assemblies.

"The education fraternity, through these assemblies, will extend the deepest appreciation and gratitude for the great deeds and contribution by Dr Mahathir to the country, and to the education field in particular," he said in a statement.

He said the Education Ministry also welcomed Dr Mahathir's successor, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the fifth Prime Minister and expressed support for his leadership.