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Mahathir - memories

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Dr. Mahathir profile

ALOR SETAR, Aug 6 (Bernama) -- It was a trip down memory lane for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today when he attended the Speech and Prize-Giving Day of Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid here.

He studied in the college, then known as the Government English School (G.E.S.) from 1932 to 1946. It was then the only English school in Kedah.

His Standard One teacher then was +Mr. Noor+, father of former Education Director-General Tan Sri Murad Mohamad Noor, he said in his speech, recalling memories of his schooling days.

+I didn't realise it then but I was one of 30 children who were fortunate to obtain an education and complete secondary and higher studies,+ he added. -- more

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Mahathir - memories 2 (last) Alor Setar

He said thousands others of his age then did not have such an opportunity.

+Since I was staying in Seberang Perak, I had to go to school with my elder brother in a +langca+ (trishaw). But for afternoon class, I had to walk home, bare-footed,+ he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that it was only after Standard VI that his father bought bicycles, for his brother and him, that too after much crying.

The bicycles were of the +Cap Ayam+ (cockerel brand), made in Japan, he added.

The teachers then were from all races but they were all called +Pak+ by the pupils. There was +Pak Din+, +Pak Tong+, +Pak Mutu+, +Pak Chye+ and +Pak Zain+, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said children were given education then for the sole purpose of becoming clerks or to join the Kedah Civil Service (KCS).

+After obtaining their Senior Cambridge, they would be asked to meet the State Secretary and ordered to become clerks or join the KCS or to take up agriculture or become technical assistants,+ he added.

+Those with grade one probably could go to the United Kingdom to further their studies,+ he said. -- Bernama