

GREAT JOB, DR M!

*Leaders honour
Mahathir at
luncheon
to mark 15th
anniversary as PM*

THE downside of being a Prime Minister is the lack of "promotion opportunities", but Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was happy to celebrate 15 years of doing the same job yesterday!

Holding the highest office in the land for a record term, he had seen and guided the nation through its highs and lows with a steady hand and unwavering direction.

He also made Malaysia known around the world with his firm stand on various issues and the nation's economic achievements.

Taking office on July 16, 1981, Dr Mahathir, who is fondly known as "Dr M", had faced the difficulties of governing the recession-hit economy of the 80s.

He is now steering the country through the more difficult waters of maintaining its excellent economic record.

Dr Mahathir outlasted the country's independence Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, who was at the helm for the first 13 years, one month and 22 days of Malaysia's formative years.

In a surprise luncheon in his honour, which Dr Mahathir said was organised "behind my back", 600 people, including many Opposition leaders,

By SHAMSUL YUNOS

tipped their hats to him.

He was also accompanied by wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir said the presence of Opposition leaders at the function is a positive indicator of the country's future and is an example of the happiness of the Malaysian experience.

The luncheon was hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and featured a video presentation that opened with a tearful Dr Mahathir reciting a poem at the Malam Puisi Utusan on May 4.

Extending the theme, Anwar also recited three

pantun in his speech, honouring the Prime Minister.

Among the dignitaries at the function at Renaissance Hotel were leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties, Menteris Besar and Chief Ministers, past and present

Cabinet Ministers under Dr Mahathir's Prime Ministership, MPs, Senators and senior officials.

Former Cabinet Ministers on hand to celebrate the occasion were Tan Sri Chong Hon Nyan, Tan Sri Lee San Choon, Datuk Lee Kim Sai, Datuk Mak Hon

Kam, Datuk Rais Yatim, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Shahrir Samad.

The Opposition presence included Opposition leader and DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang and vice chairman Karpal Singh; Parti Melayu Se-

mangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh and deputy president Rais; Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and PAS deputy president Abdul Hadi Awang; and Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan.