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Mahathir-Photos

AGONG OPENS 'A THOUSAND FACES OF DR MAHATHIR' PHOTO EXHIBITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail opened a photo exhibition entitled "A Thousand Faces Of Dr Mahathir: A Tribute To A Statesman" at the National Art Gallery (BSLN) here today.

The photo exhibition, held in honour of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his visionary leadership of the country as Prime Minister for 22 years, is jointly organised by the Malaysian media comprising newspapers, television stations, the Information Department and Bernama in collaboration with BSLN.

A total of 1,000 photographs, about half printed on canvas and the rest in the form of murals and multi-media images, are on display at the exhibition which will be on for two months and open to the public from tomorrow.

The idea of having the exhibition was mooted by Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob after the media expressed their intention to pay tribute to Dr Mahathir who is well-known to be "media friendly" throughout his 22 years as the Prime Minister.

In his speech at the opening of the exhibition, Khalil said that the variety of photographs proved that Dr Mahathir was media friendly which enabled the media to record images of him at various locations and official and unofficial events in all kinds of situation.

"It never occurred to him (Dr Mahathir) or his officers and aides-de-camp to prevent or forbid photographs of him to be taken to be recorded by the people," he said.

He said that as a leader, Dr Mahathir could be easily approached by the people at the various places including shopping complexes and recreational centres.

Some of the photographs on display, he said, were in the form of art canvas, digitally downloaded to ensure clarity.

The ceremony was telecast live over RTM.

The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Paduka Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, deputy ministers and heads of foreign mission were present.

Mokhzani Mahathir was present to represent his parents who are in Bali. Dr Mahathir is attending the two-day Ninth Asean Summit which begins in Nusa Dua tomorrow.

Nearly 80,000 photographs were contributed by the Utusan Melayu, New Straits Times, Berita Harian, The Star, The Sun, Sin Chew Daily, Nanyang Siang Pau, China Press, the Information Department and Bernama, and they were screened and the number brought down to 1,000.

RTM, TV3, ntv7 and Filem Negara contributed in other forms including its promotion of the exhibition.

-- BERNAMA

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