

Kedah gives Dr M triple-5 surprise

Bahan asal dari Arkib
Negara Malaysia

ALOR STAR, Sat. — Kedah Umno sprang a surprise on Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at its annual convention today.

A big poster at the entrance with the word "tahniah" (congratulations) greeted Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife.

Inside the hall were two huge pictures of Dr Mahathir among those of Umno president Datuk Hussein Onn, and former presidents Dato Onn bin Jaafar, Tunku Abdul Rahman, and the late Tun Abdul Razak.

Kedah Umno, in confident anticipation, was taking it for granted that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir would be the next president, succeeding Datuk Hussein Onn who has announced he would not be

seeking re-election.

Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shahabuddin presented Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir with a specially struck silver kris, a symbol of power.

He also handed the Deputy Premier a cheque for \$250,000 as Kedah Umno's contribution to the Umno headquarters building fund.

Five hundred and fifty-five eggs were distributed to the participants in the convention — denoting Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's age today at exactly 55 years, 5 months and 5 days.

Deeply moved by Kedah Umno's gesture, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: "Let's keep our fingers crossed. The egg has not been hatched yet."

In his speech, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the nation's rich resources would become worthless if the people failed to strive and turn them into wealth.

He said the people must not become parasites. They should put in all their efforts to help develop the country so that the fruits of success could be enjoyed by all.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was addressing Umno members at the 35th Kedah Umno convention this morning.

He said it was fortunate that Malaysia had been blessed with an abundance of natural resources, including oil. He said the willingness of the people to work hard was more important than the resour-

ces.

He said all the natural resources would become useless and worthless if the people failed to put in their efforts and help turn them into wealth.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir added: "We must stop relying on others. We should develop the country ourselves."

He said the country had learned an important lesson from history, especially when Perak was leased out to foreigners to mine tin ore.

"The foreigners got rich, but not us. The people therefore must gather their strength and get directly involved in all development projects in the country," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said although Malaysia's

revenue had been affected by the recent stagnant oil prices, the country had enough money to continue with its development.

He said the Arab countries should be praised for producing more oil lately to prevent prices from further escalating.

He said it was against Islamic teachings to exploit prices of goods, such as oil, which would cause hardship to poor nations.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir who is also Umno deputy president, hoped Kedah Umno members would bring up matters of national interest at the coming general assembly.

He said the assembly was to discuss national issues. Matters confined to the State should not be brought up.