

## **Dr M's birthday wish for Najib: Enjoy retirement**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**July 25, 2015**

**By Zulaikha Zulkifli**

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak turned 62 on Thursday, but for former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he had hoped that it would be the last time the former celebrates his birthday while in office.

"I hope he retires pleasantly and enjoys retirement," said Mahathir, when approached by reporters last night.

Mahathir said this after his birthday party which was organised by Berjaya Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. Mahathir turned 90 on July 10.

On Putrajaya's decision to suspend the printing license for The Edge Financial Daily and The Edge Weekly, Mahathir sarcastically said that he agreed with the move.

"Of course we have to censor The Edge. Also, all my friends are now targets. I don't know why," he said before leaving.

The two influential newspapers were suspended for three months for allegedly publishing material detrimental to public order.

### **A Night of Stars**

However, critics have pointed out that Putrajaya was likely trying to silence those who have been reporting extensively on the 1MDB controversy in a cover-up attempt.

The birthday party was themed 'A Night of Stars', complete with modified movie posters bearing Mahathir's image.

One poster depicted Mahathir as the star of the 2012 James Bond movie 'Skyfall'.

With his wife Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali in tow, the couple arrived at about 8.30pm and was ushered into the venue by Berjaya group president Robin Tan.

Among the guests included cabinet minister Joseph Kurup, former MIC president S Samy Vellu, former Bukit Bintang MP Lee Lam Thye, Cheras Umno division head Syed Ali Alhabshee, AmBank group president Azman Hashim, former NSTP Group editor A Kadir Jasin, and super model Amber Chia.

When asked about the event, Mahathir said it was fun, but jokingly complained about being made to sing.

"They made me sing when the event began. But I had fun," he said.

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Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/306145>