

I can't please everyone, says birthday boy DPM

MalaysiaKini.com

Jan 4th, 2016

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Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi's birthday wish is to speak and act with the awareness and maturity that comes with advancing age.

Zahid, who turns 63 years old today, however admitted that he could not please everyone in the process.

"With each year, I hope that every word I utter and every action I take is based on maturity.

"I cannot please all the parties, but I will try to do my best to all quarters," he told the press at National Book Awards ceremony in Kuala Lumpur today before leaving for Sarawak.

He, however, refused to comment on other issues, such as Indira Gandhi's interfaith child custody trial and the dissatisfaction expressed by the Bangladesh mission in Malaysia over Malaysia's plans to import workers from its country.

The organiser of the event also held a cake-cutting celebration for him with his wife Hamidah Khamis, daughter Nurul Hidayah and grandchildren also present.

In return, Zahid gave cookies and pulut kuning to all the guests attending the awards ceremony during which a short video was played for the audience.

Photographs of the deputy prime minister in his younger days appeared in the nine-minute video footage and there were also clips of his wife, daughter, step-sister and former lecturer speaking fondly of him.

His wife described him as a good husband and father while Nur Hidayah said he was a very strict father who seldom praised his children and used to push them to their limits.

Zahid also thanked his wife and kin, saying they were the reason for what he was today.

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Source: <https://www.malaysiakini.com/news/325455>