

PM praises Malacca's revenue collection

■ By Jason Gerald John
and Rina De Silva
news@nst.com.my

MALACCA: Being the second smallest state in Malaysia has not stopped it from taking the lead.

Malacca's latest milestone of pulling in RM1.6 billion in tax revenue for last year received acknowledgement from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday.

The prime minister, who attended the state Hari Raya open house at the Malacca International Trade Centre here, said Malacca's revenue was the highest in the country.

"Being one of the smallest states in the country has not prevented it from achieving big things.

"Last year, Malacca contributed the highest revenue to the country and this is a proud achievement.

"I congratulate Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam for this achievement.

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other states, the revenue is not as high. Perhaps something was done by the state government to enable Malacca to collect the highest revenue.

"Although small, Malacca has shown and proven that it is of high value," he said to the applause of

some 10,000 people who attended the open house.

Abdullah, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, later received 37 haemodialysis machines from various companies, state government agencies and the private sector.

They would be given to the Putra Specialist Hospital to cater for 702 kidney patients.

Abdullah and Jeanne also presented duit Raya to orphans and single mothers who were special guests at the event.

Earlier, in Kuala Lumpur, the prime minister said the history of telecommunications in the country was told in the transformation of the modest Telecoms Department to Telekom Malaysia Bhd (TM).

"We see the transformation history of TM from one position to another, moving up the value chain and today, TM is a global company," he said after launching the commemorative book *Transforming A Legacy* at TM headquarters yesterday.

"The latest strategy undertaken

to separate the fixed line business from the mobile business is a very important move by TM for the future of the telecommunications industry," Abdullah said.

After launching the book, Abdullah was presented with a 1930 antique telephone, which was still in working condition.

The 227-page *Transforming A Legacy*, traces the development of telecommunications in Malaysia since the 1870s, when telephony was first introduced.

It recounts the humble beginnings of the industry, from the days of telegraph to the prevalence of telephone lines, until today's mobile networks and Internet technology.

TM chairman Tan Sri Radzi Mansor said the book was the first to be written on the telecommunications industry and was commissioned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of TM's privatisation.

"The idea was prompted by the need to enlighten Malaysians on its history and contribution towards the progress and prosperity currently enjoyed by the nation," he said.

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