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A display of friendship, solidarity

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KUALA LUMPUR: Probably no one captures the essence of unity in diversity better than the nation's iconic cartoonist Datuk Mohammad Nor Khalid, fondly known as Lat.

In conjunction with Merdeka Day on Aug 31, the New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd (NSTP) and Bandar Raya Development Bhd (BRDB) have put 60 of Lat's unique sketches on display at the Bangsar Shopping Centre.

Titled "Lat's Malaysia Exhibition", the original sketches present Malaysia's culture, routines, politics, sports and various other aspects from the 1970s to now.

Apart from promoting Lat's outstanding work, the exhibition is also aimed at encouraging the spirit of unity and patriotism among Malaysians, while educating the young on the rich Malaysian culture.

"The essence of the concept of 1Malaysia, promoted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Na-

jib Razak, has always been there. In my younger days, we moved around together as Malaysians.

"Most of my sketches display a message about solidarity and friendship," said Lat.

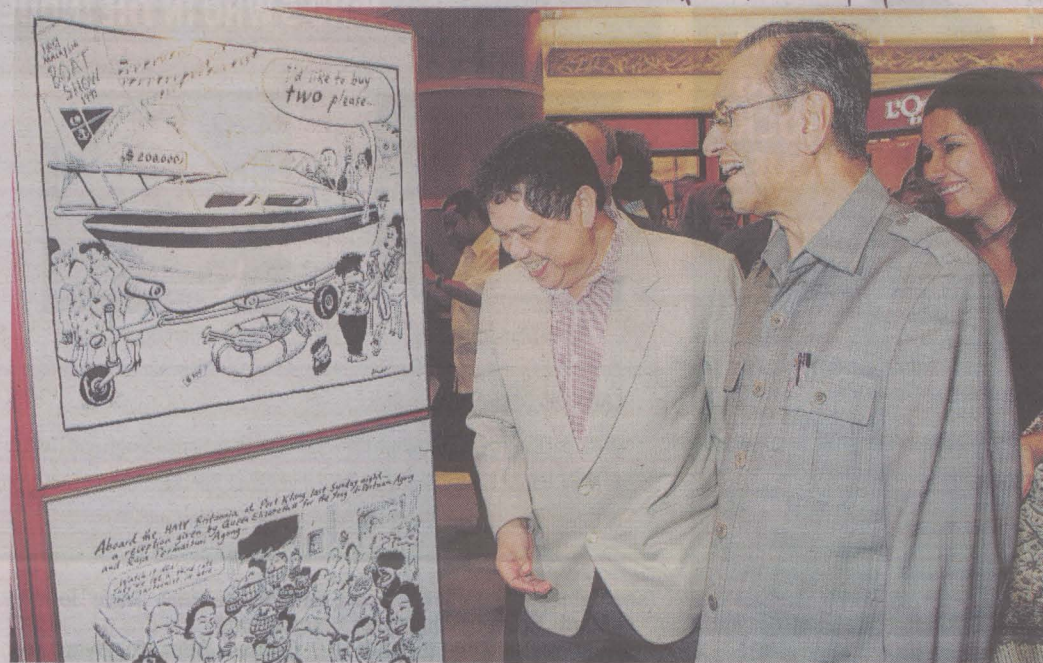
Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in launching the exhibition yesterday, said: "It's a great honour for anyone to be in Lat's cartoons."

On a lighter note, Dr Mahathir said only Lat had the talent for making fun of people without annoying them.

He also commented on Lat's style of drawing his (Dr Mahathir's) nose.

"Please reduce the size the next time you draw me," said Dr Mahathir, causing an eruption of laughter.

Present were NSTP chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan, NSTP chief executive officer Datuk Anthony Bujang, NSTP group managing editor Zainul Ariffin Mohammed Isa, NST group editor Datuk Syed Nadzri Syed Harun, NST managing editor



Nuraina Abdul Samad, BRDB chairman Mohamed Moiz J.M. Ali Moiz and Malaysia Crime Prevention Foundation deputy head Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye.

Iconic figures such as

songstress Anita Sarawak, sportswoman Datuk Nicole David and AirAsia Bhd chief executive officer Datuk Seri Tony Fernandes were also present.

Lat's work will be on display until Aug 31 at the east wing concourse.

Visitors can buy *Lat The Early Series* book, produced by NSTP Resource Centre, for

RM120 each.

Also on sale are limited editions of Lat's sketches that are embroidered on denim shirts and cloth bags at the NSTP booth there.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad listening to cartoonist Lat's (left) explanations at the 'Lat's Malaysia Exhibition' yesterday. On the right is Bandar Raya Development Bhd executive director Datin Seri Bettina Khan. — NST picture by Abdullah Yusof