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Dr M's boat 'sails' to new site

LANGKAWI: A traditional 17-metre-long wooden boat, which "sailed" on a road, caused a 1km trafficjam here on Saturday.

The boat, *Bahtera Purba*, which belongs to former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was being moved from the Boustead Yachts Langkawi dock to the Galeria Perdana in Kilim here.

Galeria Perdana houses a vast collection of gifts and awards given to Dr Mahathir and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The finely-crafted boat, which was hauled on a trailer, attracted a large number of onlookers from as early as 9.30am as it "sailed" along on its 13km journey through Jalan Bukit Malut, Jalan Kuah-Padang Matsirat and Jalan Ayer Hangat here.

The RM1.5 million boat was presented to Dr Mahathir on September 1995 by NS Bahtera Sdn Bhd and a traditional boat operator from Kelantan, Nik Sopian Nik Yusof.

The boat, which is made from chengal and merbau, was exhibited for the first time at the 1995 Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition.