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'2019 will bring us together to achieve developed nation status'

PUTRAJAYA: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the New Year will bring Malaysians together to ensure that the country will achieve developed nation status by 2025.

In a brief four-minute speech prior to the New Year's countdown at Dataran Putrajaya here, the prime minister said Malaysians could greet 2019 with "good feeling and happiness".

As the nation is about to mark its first year under the Pakatan Harapan administration, he said that it was imperative for Malaysians to chart the nation's

destiny together.

"We are lucky as our country is peaceful and harmonious.

"We need to put in greater effort this year so that our country can move towards a developed nation status by 2025. This is our wish," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking before a crowd of 400,000 people gathered in the centre of the administrative capital on Monday.

Having once held the premiership for 22 years from 1981, Dr Mahathir said together, people could bring about peace and harmony.

"Together, we will work to de-



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, enjoying the fireworks display at a New Year's countdown event in Putrajaya on Monday night. With them is Federal Territories Minister Khalid Abdul Samad.

PIC BY MOHD YUSNI ARIFFIN

velop the nation as this is our collective hope.

"In a short moment, we will reach the new year 2019.

"Therefore, I am wishing you Happy New Year with all happiness because we are lucky to be in this country," he said.

After the short speech, Dr Mahathir joined the crowd in count-

ing down to midnight.

At midnight, cheers erupted as the night sky was lit by fireworks and a 3D light show beamed onto the Palace of Justice.

Dr Mahathir and the crowd then joined in singing *Negaraku* as the Palace of Justice is bathed in a bright cascading light and shapes.

The brilliant 3D display also marked the climax of the four-day Festival of Light and Motion Putrajaya.

Present were Dr Mahathir's wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Federal Territories Minister Khalid Samad and Perbadanan Putrajaya president Datuk Dr Aminuddin Hassim.