

DR M ATTENDS JOKO'S INAUGURATION

PM's presence reflects close ties between the two leaders, says envoy

JAKARTA

PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, yesterday

attended the Indonesian president and vice-president's inauguration for the 2019-2024 term.

President Joko Widodo took his appointment oath at the Indonesian Parliamentary building at 2pm following his victory in the 2019 presidential election on April 17. His first term (2014-2019) as president ended on Saturday.

Joko, 57, who is aided by the new vice-president, Ma'aruf Amin, 76, defeated the Prabowo Subianto and Sandiaga Uno team.

Malaysian Ambassador to Indonesia, Datuk Zainal Abidin Bakar, said Dr Mahathir's presence at the event was a manifestation of the close relationship between the two leaders and countries.

He said the appointment of Joko for the second term would herald a new chapter and further strengthen ties between Malaysia and Indonesia.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah arrived at the Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport here in a special aircraft at



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad congratulating Indonesian President Joko Widodo after the latter was sworn in as president at the Parliament building in Jakarta yesterday.

10.51am West Indonesian lime (11.15am Malaysian time).

They were received by Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, Indonesian Villages, Disad-

vantaged Regions and Transmigration Minister Eko Putro Sandjojo and Zainal Abidin.

Apart from Dr Mahathir, 17 other world leaders also attended

Joko's Inauguration. They included Brunei Darussalam's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaulah, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Aus-

tralian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. **Bernamea**