

Dr M leaves 'Picnic & Potluck' event prematurely due to fatigue

PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad left a picnic event earlier than scheduled yesterday after reportedly feeling slightly fatigued.

The gathering at Putrajaya Lake, near the Perdana Leadership Foundation, was held in conjunction with his 100th birthday on Thursday and the 99th birthday of his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali on Saturday.

Dr Mahathir, who served as the country's fourth and seventh prime minister, arrived at 7.45am, driving himself to the event be-

fore taking part in a tandem bicycle ride around the lake, accompanied by his personal security detail.

However, after cycling a distance of about eight or nine kilometres, he appeared tired and was seen resting briefly on a chair before heading to the breakfast table.

Among those waiting to greet him were Dr Siti Hasmah, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar and his son, Tan Sri Mokhzani Mahathir.

The event drew over 500 attendees who brought a variety of food.

Dr Mahathir was seen leaving the event around 10am before he could mingle and take photos with the crowd.

Mokhzani said his father was not experiencing any health issues, but was tired after attending a function the previous day and getting little sleep.

"This morning, he went straight into quite a long ride, so he felt a bit fatigued.

"But after having some break-

fast, including some *kuih* and coffee, he was refreshed again."

He, however, apologised to those who attended the event, explaining that a packed schedule left Dr Mahathir feeling fatigued.

He hinted that a similar event might be organised in the future to provide the public with an opportunity to meet Dr Mahathir.

"Yesterday (Friday) we had a programme, and today's (yesterday) event started quite early.

"Prior to the 'Picnic & Potluck', there were also other engagements. Thank you for coming to

the 'Picnic & Potluck'. The atmosphere was very lively and, *Alhamdulillah*, my parents were able to join us.

"I am grateful that we could celebrate both of their birthdays today (yesterday), together with everyone here in Putrajaya, at the lake where he enjoys spending time cycling and exercising."

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir's aide Sufi Yusoff said the former prime minister was under observation at the National Heart Institute, but was expected to be released later in the day.