



DR M'S LAST DAY

MM 31/10/2003 - 1, 4-5 PRECISE

Today is Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's last day as Prime Minister after 22 years. However, on the eve of his final day in office, he still had a word or two to say about the Jews...

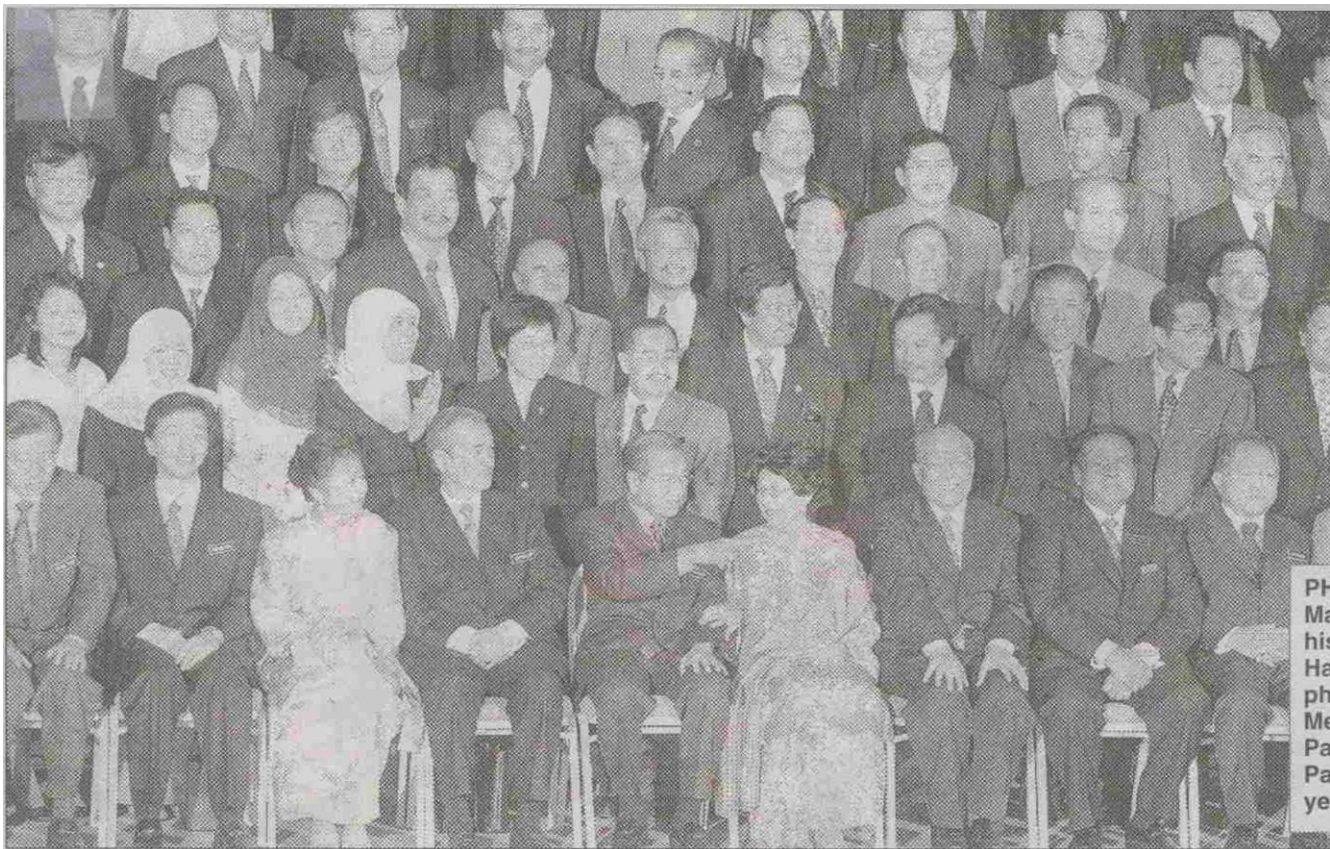


PHOTO CALL: Dr Mahathir gesturing to his wife, Dr Siti Hasmah, during a photo session with Members of Parliament at the Parliament building yesterday

JEWES TOLD NOT TO ILL-TREAT OTHERS

MM 31/10/2003 -1,4-5 PRECISE

ON the eve of his stepping down as Prime Minister yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was in his element, reminding the Jews not to inflict suffering on others, just like what they had gone through before.

Dr Mahathir said that although the Jews had suffered a great deal in the past, they must remember that when they were ill-treated by the Europeans, they ran to Muslim countries.

He said the Jews must remember that the Muslims were the ones who helped them when they were ill-treated by the Europeans and they should not think that they were the chosen people that could not be criticised.

/The Muslims have never ill-

treated the Jews, but now they are behaving exactly in the way that the Europeans behaved towards them, against the Muslims," he told a news conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting for the last time as party president at its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said this when asked if he had any parting shot for the Jews following his speech at the 10th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Putrajaya two weeks ago.

His statement at the summit that the Jews "rule the world by proxy" was taken out of context by the Western media, resulting in condemnation from Western

and European leaders.

Dr Mahathir said: "We sympathised with them (Jews). We are very sad to see how the Jews were ill-treated by Europeans.

"But they must remember that when they were ill-treated by the Europeans, they ran to Muslim countries in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and in Egypt even." he said, repeating the historical perspective.

"We (Muslims) have done no wrong. They (Jews) have taken lands belonging to the Muslims." he said.

He said that supposing that part of Britain and America were taken away and given to the Jews as Israel, the British and the Americans would not sit qui-

etiv and say it was all right and welcome them.

"Do you expect the Palestinians to accept being expelled from their own country and their own country being taken away and given to the Jews?" he said.

He said it was not a religious issue but a territorial one.

"You take someone's land and we will fight for it.

"Of course you take the land of the Red Indians and massacre them or you take the land of the Aborigines and shoot them to one side, of course these people have no way to fight."

"But those who can fight back, they fight back." he said. - Bernama

MPs BID FAREWELL

MM 31/10/2003 -1,4-5 PRECISE

By RITA JONG

THE Parliament lobby was filled with the who's who of Malaysia who had turned up to bid adieu to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, however, greeted them, as if he did not want them to see that it was with a heavy heart that he is leaving after helming the country for 22 years.

He was surrounded by hordes of people, from the moment he stepped in, till he left the building.

It was a touching moment as these comments from some of the Parliament members prove. They also touched on the Eighth Malaysia Plan unveiled by him yesterday.

This is what they had to say:

• **Transport Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy:** "It is with a heavy heart that I see him leave as we no longer can expect his contributions as Prime Minister.

"However, we will respect his decision, wish him a happy retirement.

"In the mid-term Eighth Malaysia Plan, funds have been allocated to the Transport Ministry.

"We have seen how the country, especially the Klang Valley, had developed with good transport systems, from buses to LRT and monorail.

• **Deputy Speaker and BN Senai member Datuk Lim Chi Seng:** "PM's speech was well-received. He had also sent out a good message to continue to strive and work together.

• **Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Datuk Seri Dr Mohamed Zahir Ismail:** "The atmosphere was solemn. He had been in the Government for so long and had contributed so much to the country.

"It is a decision that not everyone can accept but we all have to accept that he cannot stay at the helm forever.

"He has done so much for the people...there is progress, harmony and development in many areas, I think all of us are indebted to him for a very long time."

"PM will now be seated at the most senior seat among the backbenchers next to Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba."

• **Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu:** "The PM has come up with a very good review of the Eighth Plan. It has many programmes to modernise the country and provide the people with a lot of facilities.

"I fully support the plan and I think the country will only get better and more modern."



Mohamed Zahir: *He has contributed so much*

• **Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting:** "The Government has increased the ceiling (allocation) for local councils, and this can increase social economy and improve public facilities such as roads and drainage. These are all important for the rakyat.

"We have a strong economy and our share per capita has increased, which shows the careful and proper planning and leadership under Dr Mahathir."

• **DAP Seputeh member Theresa Kok:** "I am glad the transition of premiership has been carried out in a graceful manner.

"However, the coming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has a lot to do."



Ong: *Per capita income has increased*



Dr M: BN holds recipe to racial harmony



Samy Vellu: *PM has come up with a very good review of the Eighth Plan*



Kok: *Transition has been carried out in a graceful manner*

"THE answer is simple... *masuklah* BN." said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with a smile as he responded to a query raised by DAP Kepong member Tan Seng Giaw yesterday.

Tan had asked how the country could continue to maintain peace and tolerance among its races, and Dr Ms reply had the House tickled pink.

"We have parties which represent all the races, and we can sit together and discuss without emotions and come to an agreement."

Tapi kalau tirucun. memanglah tidcik begitu berjaya and kualiti kurarig baik sikit (But if they are not genuine, of course they will not be that successful and of slightly inferior quality." he said.

Dr Mahathir said religion is not among the most important factors in a democracy.

"Instead, it has a lot of weaknesses and hence, if we were to practice it without taking into consideration our surroundings, negative effects will befall the rakyat and the country.

"Anarchy will also take place... The belief that if democracy is practiced and that all will be smooth is baseless, especially if democracy is forced to be executed."

He said democracy will bring about good administration if all parties understood the system and ideology and realise the weaknesses and limits.

Only then, citizens will be careful and avoid abusing the freedom that comes with democracy.

Dr Mahathir, in his mid-term review of the Eighth Malaysia Plan also urged Malaysians not to have a narrow mindset and accuse the Government of trying to destroy the culture and language of any race.

"I call upon every Malaysian to rise to the occasion to face the challenges as they emerge and shoulder the responsibilities of citizenship.

"If we do this, there is no reason why we cannot continue to be successful and make this country a model for the world to emulate Malaysia Boleh."