

Universiti Utara Malaysia grateful to Dr Mahathir for his contributions

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SINTOK, Thurs. — The campus community of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), though sad to see Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad step down as Prime Minister tomorrow, is grateful to him for his contributions to the university, its vice-chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohamed Basri said today.

“His contributions to the country

and UUM are very meaningful because without Dr Mahathir, Sintok, which was formerly a communist haunt, would not have become the centre of knowledge which has produced 33,725 graduates,” he said.

The university was very proud to be chosen by the Education Ministry to set up the Institute on Dr Mahathir's Thoughts, he said at the

closing of the Reserve Officers Training Unit's (Rotu) annual training camp in Simpang Wang Perah, Jitra, near here.

To commemorate Dr Mahathir's contribution in establishing the UUM, the university would confer an honorary doctorate on him at its commemorative convocation in conjunction with its 20th anniversary celebration next year.

“Although the people need Dr Mahathir's leadership, at the same time, we must respect his decision (to retire).” Several parties in Langkawi expressed the hope that Dr Mahathir would continue to give attention to Langkawi.

Chairman of the Langkawi Taxi and Hired Car Owners Association Yusof Abdullah believed that Dr Mahathir could play a role after his

retirement to enhance Langkawi's image as a renowned island resort.

Kedah Malay Businessmen and Petty Traders Langkawi branch chairman Ghazali Mohamed Noor said Dr Mahathir had done a lot to put Langkawi on the world map and hoped that his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would continue to attend to the island's development. — Bernama