

**Sebelas Maret University Confers Honorary Doctorate On Mahathir  
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By Ahmad Fuad Yahya**

SURAKARTA (Central Java), Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Sebelas Maret University of Central Java Monday conferred on former Malaysian prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad an honorary doctorate in Social Studies and Humanities for his leadership and empowering of the Malays.

The doctorate was presented to Dr Mahathir by the university's rector, Prof Dr Ravik Karsidi, at an open senate session, at the main campus, here.

Dr Mahathir is the second recipient of the award, after Indonesia's Ministry of Agriculture former secretary-general Dr Mas'ud Wisnu Wardana, who was conferred an honorary doctorate for agriculture three years ago.

The university evaluated Dr Mahathir as having a strong commitment in leadership and empowering the Malay nation, which was proven in progressing the Malay nation on par with other nations of the world.

Dr Mahathir delivered a lecture titled 'Empowering the Malay Nation' at the open senate session, giving his opinion on how the Malays could revive and strengthen their civilisation in the present era.

He was accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

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