



ONE FOR THE ALBUM: Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah posing for pictures with press secretaries of the various ministries on the eve of his retirement yesterday.

Photo shoot despite hectic schedule

S 31/10/2003 - 10 PRECISE

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad took time off from his hectic schedule a day before his retirement to pose for a few photographs with staff from his office and political and press secretaries from other ministries.

Beginning from 8.15am yesterday, the Prime Minister and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali spent over 45 minutes taking photographs with administrative and security staff.

Dr Mahathir, who had to be at Parliament at 11am to present the Mid-Term Review of the Eighth Malaysia Plan, obliged the requests of staff who

wished to take "personal" photographs with him.

He later received a poster of him and his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi from the Political Secretaries' Club as a token of its appreciation.

The poster was handed over to Dr Mahathir by his own political secretary Datuk Johari Baharom.

Johari, who is also the club's president, said the poster, which carried the signatures of 45 political secretaries, expressed their gratefulness to the Prime Minister for his service to the country.

"We also wished him a restful retirement. The poster has our pledge that we will continue to support and contribute to the country under the leadership of Datuk Seri Abdullah.

"We are very honoured indeed that on his last day in office, Dr Mahathir could still spare some time from his busy schedule to pose for these group pictures," he said, adding that the club took about a week to arrange for the photo session.

Johari said the club also hoped to host a *buka puasa* do with Dr Mahathir soon after his retirement.