

He is a great leader who has the commitment and talent to develop the country. I respect him - Khairul Azhar Abdul Jalil

PM's old schools pay tribute

S 31/10/2003 - 14 PRECISE

I admire his courage to speak his mind, says student

ALOR STAR: More than a dozen majestic old raintrees line the driveway of Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid (KSAH) here where Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had his secondary education.

Upper Six student Phang Sue Ling, who passes under these trees daily on her way to school, said she was proud to be enrolled in the same school where Dr Mahathir studied.

"I think he walked under the same trees on the way to school in those days," said Phang, who was a student of the St Nicholas Convent here before entering Form Six at KSAH.

"I admire his courage to speak his mind without fear of the bigger powers. Everyone should be like that - not be afraid," she said.

Lower Six student S. Santha Kumar said he would place total commitment to his studies with the aim of becoming a leader like Dr Mahathir.

"I will try to follow his example and serve the country. I hope he will enjoy life with his family after his retirement," he added.

Prefect Khairul Azhar Abdul Jalil said it was an honour and privilege to study in the same



GREAT LEADER: Morazuki (foreground) addressing KSAH students as they hold portraits of Dr Mahathir at a special assembly at the school in Alor Star yesterday to honour the Prime Minister.

school as Dr Mahathir.

"He is a great leader who has the commitment and talent to develop the country. I respect him," the Form Five student added.

Khairul Azhar was given the honour to read out a poem penned by Dr Mahathir, *Erti*

Kemerdekaan (The Meaning of Independence) at the special assembly in tribute to the country's fourth Prime Minister at the school yesterday.

More than 500 students and 90 teachers took part in the assembly, which was punctuated with speeches

and patriotic songs.

Besides Khairul Azhar, another poem in tribute to Dr Mahathir, titled *Dulu, Kini dan Selamanya (The Past, Present and Forever)* was recited by Lower Six student Suhaniza Ahmad.

An article which Dr Mahathir wrote when he was the editor



Khairul Azhar: 'An honour and privilege to study in the same school'

and was located in a building near the Balai Nobat here.

Principal Morazuki Hashim said the country's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, had also studied at KSAH. "Ours is probably the only school in the world that has produced two Prime Ministers."

Dr Mahathir had given scholarships to outstanding Form Five students of the school from 1961 to 1991. Named the Iskandar Scholarship after Dr Mahathir's grandfather, the RM2,000 grants had been given out by one of his sons, Mirzan, since 1992.

At another alma mater, SK Seberang Perak Baru, 450 pupils and 25 teachers took part in an hour-long assembly at the school canteen where they also sang patriotic songs amid cheers of *Keranamu Mahathir (For you, Mahathir)*. The primary school where Dr Mahathir used to study at also included a poetry recital and a colouring contest of his portrait to mark the occasion.

Headmaster Salleh Hassan said the pupils and teachers prepared two banners and a big 'thank you' card for Dr Mahathir to express their gratitude for his services.

of the school magazine *Darul-aman* in 1946, titled *My Town In War Time*, was read out at the special assembly.

KSAH was established in 1908 and Dr Mahathir's father, Mohamad Iskandar, was its first principal. It was then known as the Government English School