



MAKING IT OFFICIAL: Dr Mahathir signing a plaque after laying the foundation stone for the Kedah Malay Assembly Hall in Alor Star yesterday. — Bernamapic

The Star - 29/4/2004, m/s: 20

Dr M: Study origins of language

BY EMBUN MAJID

ALOR STAR: Academicians and Malay language experts should conduct a study of the Malay language to see if it has become a *bahasa rojak*, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said the issue of the language allegedly losing its originality due to being mixed with other languages should be discussed in the study.

"They should study if the Malay language has become a *bahasa rojak* (a language that is mixed with other languages) or it is going to become one," he

said after laying the foundation stone for the Kedah Malay Assembly Hall here yesterday.

The issue of the Malay language becoming a *bahasa rojak* as a result of being mixed with English was discussed in the media following the banning of several songs which contained such language by Radio and Television Malaysia.

The songs included *Seksis* by Anita Sarawak and *Tipah Tertipu* by Ruffedge which contained English words.

Arts, Culture and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim was quoted in *Utusan Malaysia* yesterday as saying

the Malay language was slowly losing its originality because of the people's habit of mixing foreign words with it.

Dr Mahathir said the recent discussions on the language were carried out without any in-depth study of its origins and how it had evolved.

"It is better if we give comments about the language based on a study rather than emotions," he said.

Dr Mahathir said words in the Malay language were actually limited in this modern era.

■ Unhealthy language trend - Pg