



Dr Mahathir obliging a student with his autograph while Mohamad and Maznah look on.

Dr M pays surprise visit to school

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By SIMON KHOO

STUDENTS of SM Seremban 2 were introduced to a very special guest during their annual prize-giving ceremony recently.

Many could not believe their eyes when former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad stepped into the Dewan Ungku Abdul Aziz to deliver a public lecture entitled "A World Class School."

He was accompanied by Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and school principal Datin Maznah Yusof.

Others who were also present were Deputy Education Minister Datuk Hon Choon Kim, state secretary Datuk Hamzah Ghazalli, state exco members Datuk Mohd Rais Zamuddin and Datuk Woo Ah Lek and state education director Datuk Rohani Shariff.

A rousing applause greeted the former premier as he took to the rostrum and started talking off-the-cuff.

The students were all ears as he spoke briefly about his childhood days and how he came up in life due to his parents and became the country's fourth prime minister.

Later, he was shown the school's history gallery where some of his books are prominently displayed.

Dr Mahathir is still a crowd favourite and scores of students and teachers took the opportunity to take photographs with him.

Among others, he reminded the students to concentrate on their studies and absorb as much knowledge as possible.

"Of course, you can also watch *Akademi Fantasia* but do not use the show as the main driving factor.

"Nowadays, many vicious crimes such as rapes and murders are being committed which were previously unheard of," he said, adding that parents, teachers and the society must work together to address the matter.

Dr Mahathir also called on religious teachers to play a more pro-active role to educate the students on moral principles and behaviour.

On the world-class school, he said the Government had spent 25% of its annual expenditure to build schools, upgrade facilities and increase manpower.

"It is now up to the students to absorb knowledge and ensure the money spent by the Government is worthwhile," he said.