



TUN MAHATHIR CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTORATE IN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), for the first time, conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Automotive Engineering to former Prime Minister Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad in recognition to his continuous contribution to developing the nation's automotive industry.

Tun Dr. Mahathir is the country's fourth Prime Minister.

UMP Chancellor, His Royal Highness Tengku Mahkota of Pahang Tengku Abdullah Al-Haj Ibnu Sultan

Haji Ahmad Shah Al-Musta'in Billah presented the award in a special convocation ceremony held at the Sports Complex Hall, UMP Gambang on May 17, 2012.

Also present were Tun Dr. Mahathir's wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Haji Mohamad Ali, Higher Education Deputy Minister, Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah and UMP Board of Director's Chairman, Dato' Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib.

In his speech, Tengku Abdullah said Tun Dr. Mahathir had successfully



built up the national automotive industry and turned Malaysia into a highly competitive country in the international scene today.

"After 29 years, Malaysia is proud for being able to make useful of its local experts to move ahead

in building the national automotive industry, from the design stage to engine development.

"In fact, the conferment of this honorary doctorate will inspire more success and excellence among Malaysians," he said.

Tengku Abdullah also proposed for UMP to carry on with its strategic focus to ensure that its progress would always be on the right track by means of research activities, consultation, knowledge dissemination and human resource development that would give added values to society's advancement.

Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, in his speech, said UMP played an active role in developing automotive engineering as among its niche areas.

"The cooperation forged between UMP and strategic partners from Germany through Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HsKA) in its automotive engineering twinning programme can significantly build up a national automotive industry with the



involvement of more local and high caliber workers," he added.

Tun Dr. Mahathir also said he had full confidence that an imagination for success followed by serious efforts was very instrumental in realising a dream.

He said this had been proven with the development of the national automotive industry that was established in 1983, starting with Proton Saga.

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Today, the Malaysian automotive brand had a line-up of various models and designs – a result of the Malaysian boldness in taking the risk and trying something new then, he added.

In addition, Tun Dr Mahathir said the automotive industry that had been developed was centred on patriotism as well with locals trusting and appreciating a national brand.

UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said, the conferment to Tun Dr. Mahathir in the special convocation ceremony was even more meaningful as the university also celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

He also said outsiders' confidence in the progress of Malaysia's automotive industry that was moving on the right track today facilitated the cooperation forged with the prominent university in Germany that brought about the collaboration of the twinning programme in automotive.

As a form of recognition to the commitment, leadership, contribution and determination showed by Tun Dr Mahathir in spearheading the development of the automotive and engineering industry, the conferment simply fit him, Professor Dato' Dr. Daing Nasir said.

He also said it was only right for UMP to declare Tun Dr. Mahathir as Malaysia's Father of Automotive.

Later, Tengku Abdullah and Tun Dr Mahathir, accompanied by other guests, visited an automotive fair as well as an exhibition on the life of the former prime minister.