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'NO PROBLEM IN GETTING NEW LEADERS, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-succession 12

From Ahmad Zukiman Zain.

JAKARTA, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will not face problems in the area of getting leaders for the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir 'Mohamad said.

He said the country had four prime ministers since independence and the transition had been peaceful.

+The system has continued. . . so we are hopeful that even' when I retire, there will be others to replace me and others who will replace those who replace me under circumstances which will not be disruptive to the country,+ he said in a recorded interview over a private-run television tonight.

The Prime Minister was asked whether countries in the region especially Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia could expect new leaders with the same qualities of the present leaders to guarantee future growth.

Dr. Mahathir, who is here for the 10th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, said he could not say of other countries but, in Malaysia the transition had been carried out peacefully. -- more

▼06/09/00-49MST

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Malaysia celebrated its 35th independence anniversary on Aug 31.

The 67-year-old Prime Minister said Malaysia had been able to maintain political stability as the country had been fair to all races.

To another question, he said Malaysia would do anything within its means to help other countries. -- Bernama

▼06/09/00-50MST