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Ramli-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR IS A LEADER PAR EXCELLENCE, SAYS RAMLI

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IPOH, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has established himself as a leading statesman in the world by the way he tackled various international issues, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said.

"While many leaders chose to keep quiet and watch, Dr Mahathir's style of taking the issues head-on has enhanced Malaysia's image," he said at the "Political Roadshow" organised by Perak Umno here last night.

Ramli said it was this style of leadership which the second echelon leaders led party Vice-President Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wished to emulate.

Umno members wanted to ensure that the Vision 2020 concept mooted by the Prime Minister would become a reality to make Malaysia a developed nation 27 years from now, he said.

He said the 143 nominations received by Anwar, who is Finance Minister, to contest for the deputy presidency in the party elections next month were a manifestation of grassroots support. -- more

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Ramli-Mahathir 2 Ipoh

The overwhelming nominations for Anwar showed that almost all the Umno divisions in the country wanted to ensure continuity in the country's leadership, he said.

Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in his speech, said poverty eradication would remain a key agenda in Umno's efforts to promote economic growth.

Umno's success in reducing the poverty rate was a world record and this trend would be maintained until Malaysians were freed from the clutches of poverty in 2001, Muhyiddin said.

He said the country had achieved unprecedented economic growth rate of 10.4 per cent and reduced inflation to below three per cent, something unheard of anywhere else in the world.

As such, Umno needed to promote leaders who could continue to shoulder the challenges inside and outside the country as it marched towards 2020, he said. -- more

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Ramli-Mahathir 3 (last) Ipoh

The Dr Mahathir-Anwar combination would be the best and it could take the party and country to greater heights, he said.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib said the changes taking place in the country and overseas had created new challenges for Umno.

This called for a strong line-up of leaders led by Anwar to help Dr Mahathir discharge his duties, he said.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Anwar had provided the golden touch to the country's economy, bringing it to a level which the people could be proud of.

Anwar would be the most logical choice to succeed Dr Mahathir when the time came, he said.

Muhyiddin, Muhammad and Najib are vying for the vice-presidency, and they are backed by Anwar. -- Bernama

MUS YBY

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