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Mahathir-Administration

GOVT ADMINISTRATION MORE EFFICIENT NOW, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today modifications in the government administrative system have made it more efficient now, with people having less problems when dealing with it.

The prime minister said changes, especially those introduced by the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid, had shortened considerably the time people needed to spend with government administration.

"We need to make sure that the administration knows what the people want since it has to translate into reality their demands made to their representatives in the Parliament," he said when launching a book by Ahmad Sarji entitled 'The Chief Secretary to the Government, Malaysia', here.

Dr Mahathir said the government administrative machinery was precisely the tool to ensure that the people's demands and aspirations were met.

"Therefore, close cooperation between the elected government and the head of the administration is important and this we have achieved slowly after we modified the administrative machinery," he added.

He said Malaysia inherited a British-style administrative machinery after independence which was later found to be not suitable for the people, he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was during Ahmad Sarji's time that the government administration really began to be updated with much of the red tape reduced.

He also said that the Malaysian government machinery was capable of being more people-oriented and that a lot of the country's achievement was due to the ability of the government administration.

On the book, Dr Mahathir said he was glad that Ahmad Sarji, who retires on Sept 16, had taken the trouble to write about his job.

"I hope that others will follow the example of Ahmad Sarji by writing down their experiences for the record so that we know what to do and what to avoid," he said, adding that it was a great a great contribution to the administrative system as a whole.

Dr Mahathir also expressed his confidence that there will be no interruption in the administration when the new Chief Secretary to the Government, Datuk Abdul Halim Ali, takes over on Sept 17.

"I'm quite sure that the transfer of power will go on very smoothly...It will be very smooth (that) we should expect no interruption in the administration simply because the new chief secretary is taking over," he said.

Dr Mahathir described working with Ahmad Sarji as "very comfortable and very fruitful".

Abdul Halim's appointment was announced by the Prime Minister's Department on Aug 28, the first day he started his duties as the Foreign Ministry Secretary-General following his promotion from Deputy Secretary-General. -- BERNAMA

MAM JK