

02 OCT 1996

Mahathir-Sarji

GOVT'S SUCCESS DUE TO AHMAD SARJI, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid the highest tribute to former Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid by attributing the government's success in its social, economic and religious programmes to his determination, commitment and approach.

The prime minister also described Ahmad Sarji as a "mediator" between the government and the civil service, a soft-spoken but serious and firm man who had succeeded in bringing the civil service to a level of high quality, trustworthiness and excellence and one highly regarded by the third world civil services.

"Ahmad Sarji was also able to provide motivation and dynamic leadership to bring about changes suited to the reforms the country is currently going through as a rapidly developing country that must use new methods that accompany the information age," he said at a farewell dinner for Ahmad Sarji.

Ahmad Sarji, 58, left the service on Sept 16 after six years in the post. He was replaced by Datuk Abdul Halim Ali, the former Foreign Ministry Secretary-General.

"Ahmad Sarji's sincerity as an efficient and systematic chief secretary to the government is clearly seen in his efforts in arranging and documenting the work processes and evolving a standard or quality in line with our hope to achieve ISO 9000 status in our administration," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when Ahmad Sarji was the chief secretary to the government, three concepts -- ideas, efficiency to implement ideas and communications or a network that would enable the government to have friends that would support its efforts -- applied and formed the foundation in motivating the civil service.

Top officers were encouraged to attend courses and write and record their experiences, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Ahmad Sarji, whom he jokingly labelled "father of circulars", understood the aspirations of the government and was given the duty and trust in implementing the government's decisions.

Ahmad Sarji's ability could also be assessed from the scope of his writings throughout his career and his books and articles which had been published by the government and its agencies, he said.

Dr Mahathir said he and the government recorded their highest appreciation and thanks to Ahmad Sarji for his excellent work and contributions to the civil service and the country.

He believed that Ahmad Sarji, although retired, would continue to be involved in various important fields and the private sector because he had fostered ties between the public and private sectors under the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

To Abdul Halim, Dr Mahathir said he hoped that he would continue the good work and bring the civil service to greater heights. -- BERNAMA

ARA MAI JK