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Abdullah-Kamil

KAMIL WAS MOST LOVED SECRETARY GENERAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has described the former Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil as someone who was loved by the staff and a dignified diplomat.

"The praise given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when winding up the debate at the Umno general assembly last Saturday was the highest honour ever accorded to any official of Wisma Putra or head of government department," he said tonight.

He was speaking at a retirement dinner for Kamil who served the Foreign Ministry for 34 years at a leading hotel here which was also attended by Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datin Seri Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali.

Abdullah also said he had enjoyed a good working relationship with Kamil and was grateful to him for being "most helpful and always there to give a helping hand."

He said based on his remarkable career as a diplomat who was well known throughout the world, Dr Mahathir had extended Kamil's services twice and appointed him as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy recently.

In his speech, Kamil spoke of the importance of making sure that younger generation of diplomats were imbued with a dynamism and confidence so as to be able to stand tall and carry themselves proudly among representatives of other nations.

"And above all, they are to ensure that the flame of the nation burns forever brightly," he added.

Kamil said the Prime Minister's aggressive and pragmatic approach to the country's foreign policy had enabled the nation to play a more assertive and meaningful role in international relations and propelled the country into the global scene. -- BERNAMA

ZAB AO