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Umno-Mahathir (UN)

UN EXPERIENCE HELPS RAZALI TO BECOME UNGA PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Razali Ismail's assignment as Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) for the last eight years helped to expose him widely and subsequently chosen to become president of the UN General Assembly.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Razali's appointment proved that Malaysians can compete with anybody in the international arena.

He said it might not have been possible for Razali to hold the post if the government had not made changes in the placement of its diplomats abroad.

"Why did it not happen before, (so) we made a study and found that under the old practice when we send our representative to the UN it was only for a three-year stint because it was an internal government procedure," he said when winding up the debate on the last day of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

He said, after having served at the UN for some time, Razali could master all aspects pertaining to the world body until he became a regular source of reference by representatives including those from the developed nations.

"Everyone knows Tan Sri Razali...nobody objected to his appointment," said Dr Mahathir, who mentioned the name of another candidate from Asia who willingly withdrew to make way for Razali.

The Prime Minister said Razali's appointment showed that if an approach that could bring success is applied, then success can be achieved.

"If we apply an approach that can bring success, then we will succeed but if we do things without commitment, we get angry when people don't support us, we will always be disappointed," he said.

Dr Mahathir also announced the appointment of former Wisma Putra Secretary General, Tan Sri Ahmad Kamil Jaafar as the special envoy to Eastern Europe.

The appointment is made based on Kamil's vast experience, as he had carved a name for himself in handling East European affairs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia and he is a familiar figure with leaders of the countries in the Balkan region. -- BERNAMA

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