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UN-Reactions

U.N. APPOINTMENT A RECOGNITION OF MALAYSIA'S PEACE EFFORTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The election of Tan Sri Razali Ismail as president of the United Nations General Assembly has been described as a recognition of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's efforts to secure justice and peace on various world issues.

United Nations Malaysia Association president Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen said the election also reflected Malaysia's high standing in the international arena.

"Tan Sri Razali's election is a great honour to Malaysia and clearly demonstrates the high esteem and confidence that the world body has in his wisdom and ability to carry out the heavy task of steering successfully the 51st General Assembly through its deliberations," he said in a statement today.

Razali assumed the post on Wednesday.

Tengku Rithauddeen said since his appointment in 1988 as Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Razali has actively defended the principles of the UN Charter and effectively voiced Malaysia's position on various issues.

He is confident that under Razali's guidance, the 51st General Assembly would rise to greater heights in its efforts to bring about peace, development and stability in the world.

Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Director-General Abdul Aziz Deraman said Razali's maiden speech after his election, in which he used Malay in his opening remarks, accorded pride of place to the language at the United Nations.

Abdul Aziz also praised Razali for appearing in the world body clad in Malay dress with a songkok.

He said the efforts by Razali should be emulated by other Malaysian leaders to raise the standing of the Malay language as one of the premier languages in the world.

Malaysian Malay Journalists Association president Yazid Othman said the appointment was a major success of Malaysia's foreign policy.

He said Razali's pledge to be proactive raised hope that the freedom to speak out and decisions of the majority would be respected by the world, especially by the big powers.

"We hope Tan Sri Razali will become the implementor of democracy and not the tool of democracy in the United Nations," he said.

He said the UN should be made more effective as its credibility had been questioned lately due to its practice of "double-standards" in handling important world issues at the behest of certain big powers. --

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