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Arab magazine praises Malaysia's achievements

MALAYSIA, an Islamic Third World nation, has a clear vision and strong will to achieve development that is found to be lacking among the Arab countries.

This was described in an article from "El-Majallah", a weekly Saudi magazine issued in London by the Saudi Research and Marketing company dated May 3, in which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was featured prominently by its writer.

In the article, Dr Mahathir was described as the man who planned the Malaysian "miracle" which was later implemented by Malaysian men and women.

According to the writer, Malaysians refused to accept incompetence and inability by admitting that progress is impossible in a situation like theirs.

The writer said although Malaysia, which lacked all the basic requisites of development, yet it was able to achieve the impossible and today, the country is one of the "miracles" of South-East Asia.

The writer also noted that Dr Mahathir's development programme started in 1981, when he took the office of Prime Minister and started transforming the weaknesses of Malaysia into points of strength.

Citing an example, the writer said Dr Mahathir used the low level of subsistence in the country, a sign of poverty, in order to provide low-cost labour for the incoming international economic ventures.

The writer also said Dr Mahathir made education cater for the needs of Industry and strove to maintain a spirit of unity and respect between a diversified nation consisting of Malays, Chinese and Indians.

"The making of a successful nation is not an impossible task, yet it deserves a will of iron to do that, and this was what was able to provide for a nation which lacked the necessary natural resources for development.

"Dr Mahathir has put forward to the nation his Malaysia 2020 programme of development, despite the fact that his term in office expires in the year 2020," he added.

The writer also went on to provide its readers with a summary of the nine major challenges faced by Malaysia, while the country gears itself to qualify for a place within the 19 developed nations of the world.

The writer said the story of Dr Mahathir is an interesting story to read, because it is the Arab's own story that has yet to be told.

"It is a story that must be taught in our schools, as well as our media. A story that tells about the success we keep dreaming about," the writer said, adding that Dr Mahathir is perhaps one of the few dignitaries from outside the area whom Arabs look forward to meet and talk to both on the official and public levels.

The writer cited that Dr Mahathir was received cordially during his latest visit to several Arab countries, the least of which was to Saudi Arabia, where he received an honorary medal from King Faisal Awards Fund. The Prime Minister was treated likewise in Bahrain and Kuwait.

This article was one of the two articles concerning Malaysia extracted from two Arabian media publications and published in the first issue of a weekly bulletin called "Malaysia in Arab Press" last Monday. The other article was on a development project for Muslim endowments in Malaysia extracted from Kuwait's Al Muslimoon Daily, dated April 18, 1978.

Articles pertaining to Malaysia and Malaysia-Arab relations, was issued

by Afro Arab Centre (M) Sdn Bhd based in Subang Jaya.
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