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Awards for Dr M `should do us proud'

THERE is no reason for anyone to be envious of the fact that the King Faisal and Nehru Awards were conferred on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Dewan Negara was told yesterday.

Parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Mohamed Abdullah said the awards were for Dr Mahathir's contributions to society.

The King Faisal and Nehru Awards were conferred on the Prime Minister by the Saudi Arabian and Indian Governments respectively.

Mohamed was replying to Senator Datuk Zainal Md Deros who asked whether the awards would cause certain religious and political groups in the country and overseas to be envious.

Mohamed said the awards were only conferred on renowned leaders who have contributed significantly to the world community.

"It is not easy for a Malaysian, or anyone else from any other country, to receive such awards. As Malaysians, we should be proud to have been bestowed the honour."

(END)