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PM's speech earns all-round praise

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu described Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech as being very consistent with what the Prime Minister was propagating now, namely calling for a clean country.

This was especially important as Malaysia progressed into the next century, said Samy Vellu, who is also Works Minister.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Dr Mahathir's speech gave a new perspective to the struggle of the Malays "who use Islam to guide them in everyday life".

Abdul Taib, who is also Sarawak Chief Minister, said Dr Mahathir gave a true and thorough picture of the development of Islam in the country and how it had contributed to the nation's development.

"The Prime Minister said we should free ourselves from being trapped in backwardness and that we, Muslims, should try our best to understand Islam," he said.

Abdul Taib said Dr Mahathir was also right when he spoke on the fatwa issue. "Dr Mahathir was right to say that when a fatwa is issued, it should not reflect a personal decision of one official."

Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak president Datuk Leo Moggie also commended Dr Mahathir on his opening address, describing it as "very good".

"The Prime Minister was very forthright and very thorough," said Moggie, who is also Energy, Telecommunications and Posts Minister.

Gerakan deputy president Datuk Kerk Choo Ting described Dr Mahathir's speech as "full of academic analysis". "The Prime Minister was very thorough. He covered all fields from religion to culture. He was very impressive," said Kerk, who is also Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry.

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