

21 MAY 1998

Mahathir - Habibie

DR MAHATHIR CONGRATULATES HABIBIE

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has congratulated Prof B.J. Habibie on his appointment as Indonesia's new president succeeding Suharto who resigned today.

"I extend my best wishes and congratulate your excellency on being appointed Indonesia's new president," said Dr Mahathir in his message conveyed through the Foreign Ministry today.

Dr Mahathir said he was thankful to God for the orderly handing-over of the presidential powers done in accordance with the republic's constitution.

"I hope with your excellency's appointment, Indonesia will return to normal, be peaceful again and get back on the road to greater development as aspired by the people of Indonesia," said Dr Mahathir.

The prime minister also expressed optimism that Habibie could deal with future problems and challenges facing Indonesia.

"I'm also confident that all Indonesians would give their full support to your excellency to lead the Indonesian Republic into the new millennium.

"My hope is that with your leadership Mr President, we could continue with our wishes to reinforce the special ties of friendship and bond of goodwill that have long existed between Malaysia and Indonesia," Dr Mahathir added.

-- BERNAMA

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