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Attributes of responsible leadership

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said responsible leadership calls for statesmanship, courage, wisdom and for doing the right things.

"Not just (doing) the popular things," the Deputy Prime Minister said in a speech at the launch today of a CD-ROM Mahathir, CEO Malaysia Inc on the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The result of two years of work, the CD-ROM includes 35 speeches of Dr Mahathir, 200 photographs, views of others on the Prime Minister, a peek into the man and his aspirations.

Describing Dr Mahathir, among others, as a truly "modern-day business Renaissance Man" and "Bapa Wawasan", Abdullah added that he was confident Malaysians were pragmatic, peace-loving people who could appreciate responsible leadership.

"And who can distinguish between short term popular leaders and those with a proven track record."

Abdullah said in many areas of his life and work, Dr Mahathir had brought everyone "up to speed" with his thoughts, that were about challenging conventional wisdom and prevalent ways.

"It is not surprising, therefore, that capital controls were introduced to cool hot money and to stabilise the currency."

He said Dr Mahathir had brought about a reversal of roles, rewriting the history of the country. He said when Dr Mahathir came into office, he (the Prime Minister) "concocted a stew of beliefs that blends the realism of hard economics, the acumen of a shrewd businessmen and enough giddy futurism to either excite or to frighten his followers."

He referred to the Prime Minister's vision to make Malaysia an industrialised nation by 2020 and also on the region's economic and financial crisis. On the economic crisis, Abdullah said: "Dr Mahathir is resolved to putting the economy back on its feet and we support the stance."

Abdullah alluded to the call for change and reform and for "greater democracy and human rights", saying : "We hear these calls. We know that some things need to change whilst a lot more need to be preserved as they have stood the test of time.

"Change for change's sake is not what our people want," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he believed Dr Mahathir would lead the nation towards a new and better future, and that he was confident the Prime Minister would continue to help Malaysia manage the next phase of reforms as it entered the new millennium.

Those interested to buy the CD-ROM, selling at RM60, can call Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute at 03-7317775 ext 1410. It is also available online through xtremedia.com and asli.com.my.

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