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Govt officers help get economy back on track (HL)

Lokman Mansor

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night paid tribute to Malaysia's administrative machinery for its support and contribution towards efforts to get the nation's economy back on track.

He said administrative and diplomatic (PTD) officers had gone beyond their normal duties and cooperated with the Government during the recent economic crisis.

"Many took on additional work and responsibilities to supply the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) with enough information and support so that the NEAC and the Government were able to study the economic and financial developments taking place to find the best solutions to the crisis," Dr Mahathir said.

Speaking at the Association of Administrative and Diplomatic Service (PPTD) dinner in Kuala Lumpur last night, he said the Government's administrative machinery showed commendable patience during the crisis.

"Even though their salaries could not buy them as much as before as certain allowances were frozen, bonuses were not paid, and their salaries were not revised, government officers and staff at all levels did not take any industrial action.

"In fact they did not demand anything at all, and accepted the cost-cutting measures taken by the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said with the support and calm displayed by these officers, the Government could create its own approach to overcome the economic crisis, one which did not require conditional assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"I would like to state on record the Government's thank you and appreciation because the PTD officers did not bother the Government at all while it was planning and implementing measures to revive the economy," Dr Mahathir said.

He said now that the economy is getting back on track, the Government hopes that it can not only reinstate all the allowances and facilities previously enjoyed by PTD officers, but also gradually revive their purchasing power.

Dr Mahathir also commended the administration for maintaining professionalism in carrying out their duties, by separating themselves from involvement with the legislative or partisan politics.

"Whoever forms the Government, the administration must carry out all the plans and policies brought by that Government.

"Individual and personal opinions about politics cannot be taken into consideration or influence the implementation of government decisions.

"This separation is important because without it, the implementation of policies and projects by the Government of the day will be jeopardised," he said.

Dr Mahathir said PTD officers will continue to play an important role in Malaysia's development process.

"I have full confidence in the abilities of PTD officers, especially in mastering the electronic government system.

"With their willingness to master new techniques and technologies, the nation's resilience and capabilities will be increased," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the efficient administrative machinery is one example of the nation's capabilities and proof of "Malaysia Boleh".

"Our country's administration is an administration that is professional,

one that carries out its duties according to parliamentary democracy principles. The separation of partisan politics and administration is held high.

"With that, anyone who forms the Government can be assured that policies and strategies developed by the leaders of the day will be implemented efficiently and sincerely by administrators.

"I believe this principle and practice will continue to be held by the PTD so that this country's administration will not be jeopardised if there is a change in Government," he said.

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