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It's just reward for loyal service to Umno, says Ling

SUNGAI PETANI, Fri. - MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi deserved to be appointed the Deputy Prime Minister in view of his capability.

"I think Datuk Seri Abdullah has proven his maturity in Umno and is also a quality leader.

"He has given excellent service to the Government and the nation and I think his appointment is a reward for his struggle for the party and nation," Dr Ling told reporters at the swearing-in ceremony of new MCA members at a dinner here.

He said although Abdullah was not in the Cabinet after the 1987 Umno crisis, he remained firm in upholding the Umno and Barisan Nasional principles.

"It is Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reward to Abdullah for his loyalty to Umno and BN."

In Kuala Lumpur, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister was timely as it would definitely stabilise the political situation.

"This has put an end to any unnecessary speculation on the country's political situation," said Dr Lim.

Expressing Gerakan's support for Abdullah, Dr Lim called on all BN component parties to also support Abdullah.

"It is with such co-operation that we would be able to continue our efforts towards the revival of political and economic stability."

Malaysian Youth Council president Saifuddin Abdullah said the appointment of Abdullah was timely as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad needed an able deputy to assist him.

"To us Pak Lah (Abdullah), being a seasoned and experienced politician, is the right candidate.

"Many world leaders know Abdullah as Malaysia's Foreign Minister. This would definitely help him to execute his new role more effectively," he said.

Saifuddin said Abdullah, who had held portfolios in several ministries and a former president of the Peninsular Malay Students Federation, would be able to carry out his duties well.

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