

# PM: Abdul Halim overcame challenges during tenure

STAR

19 FEB 2001

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former Chief Secretary to the Government (KSN) Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali had successfully overcome the critical challenges during his tenure, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

The Prime Minister said the economic slowdown, globalisation and the problems of the new millennium were challenges that were faced and overcome.

"When he was the KSN, we were faced with the challenge of professionalism within the civil service," he said at a reception to honour Abdul Halim who ended his term on Jan 31.

Abdul Halim now heads the Employees Provident Fund

(EPF) as its chairman.

He is succeeded by Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.

Dr Mahathir said many measures had to be taken in facing the challenges of professionalism within the civil service, such as reducing operating expenditure and prohibiting holidays overseas, and civil servants were unhappy with them.

But, he said, Abdul Halim succeeded in pacifying them until the country's economy improved and the people continued to support the Government.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian Government administration had been perceived as an efficient one by foreign governments.

"We know because many countries have sent their officers here to learn from the Malaysian administration," he said.

Dr Mahathir said over the past 20 years as Prime Minister, he had worked with many Chief Secretaries and found that they were all dedicated officers who were prepared to work whenever and wherever they were required.

"After having worked for so long with Tan Sri Abdul Halim without any problem, I am sad that he has now retired.

"Although he has retired, the Government is not willing to let him go just like that. Thus, he has been appointed chairman of the EPF," he said.