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PM sought after at world forums

reports on "Dewan Rakyat" by Ramlan Said; Patrick Sennyah; Aionn Mohd DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's presence at international conferences is eagerly awaited because leaders want to seek his ideas and views, the Dewan Rakyat was told.

Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Noh Omar said the Prime Minister was respected for his ideas.

"Dr Mahathir sets the trend. Whatever policy he draws up is now emulated," he told Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan (BN-Tebrau) during question time.

Noh said Malaysia declined the advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when it was facing an economic crisis and drew up its own financial policies and now those policies as crafted by Dr Mahathir were acknowledged by the IMF.

Noh said the Prime Minister attended 33 international forums last year and 21 until October this year.

He told Abdul Rahman Yusof (Keadilan-Kemaman) that these forums, held locally and outside the country, were organised by governments, corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations.

From the total, 24 forums were organised by the Malaysian Government and local organisations and 30 by foreign governments and international organisations.

He said Malaysia was once criticised for using the Internal Security Act, but now even the United States was adopting this measure.

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