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`Dr Mahathir's achievements due to people's support'

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been able to achieve all that he has so far due to the support and encouragement of the people, said parliamentary secretary in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Noh Omar.

He told Fong Kui Lum (DAP-Bukit Bintang) that though all kinds of allegations had been hurled against the Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir was never shaken and has made Malaysia an example for other developing nations.

"His greatest achievements are in maintaining peace and harmony and ensuring a sound economy for this multi-racial country which is capable of greater heights in the coming years," he said.

Noh said it was the Government's desire that all Malaysians continue to work hard and possess the confidence that they can realise the goals of Vision 2020.

He said the people should not overlook the opportunities provided by the Government and focus on information technology to ensure they were not left behind in the global economy.

"Dr Mahathir's most challenging period was during the 1997 financial crisis," he said, adding that even this was overcome by the Prime Minister with the support of the people.

However, he said, there were times when efforts by the Government were hampered by certain quarters, including the Opposition which made baseless allegations.

"The Opposition has over the years never agreed to anything, from the time the Government proposed the construction of the Penang Bridge to the time Putrajaya was built.

"If we had listened to the Opposition, we would never have come this far and achieved this much."

Noh said the Opposition should stop opposing everything and instead focus on helping the people.

To a supplementary question from Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong), Noh said the Prime Minister hoped to change the attitude of the Malays to make them more positive and responsive.

He said though Dr Mahathir may have found himself alone when making certain decisions in his early years, he had proven all the critics wrong and today is respected not only here, but all over the world.

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