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Mahathir-Cabinet

CABINET HAS SUCCESSFULLY STEERED NATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the cabinet led by him has proven its ability to develop and administer the nation until it is admired by other countries.

The prime minister said the people did not know that the cabinet, which met every Wednesday, was a bit relaxed with various matters being discussed and debated.

"This cabinet of ours, which we know and others don't, is a bit relaxed, more relaxed than the cabinets of other countries. Sometimes we hear raucous laughter in the cabinet as if they are not serious and are just attending a social function.

"But whether or not we laugh or joke, the reality is that the cabinet of this country has proven its ability to develop and administer our country until it is admired by other nations," he said at a lunch to fete Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia whose term as a cabinet minister has expired.

Pandikar Amin had to relinquish his post as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department following the expiry of his term as a senator on May 19. He has served the maximum two terms as a senator from 1987 to 1989 and from 1999 to 2002.

Dr Mahathir said the cabinet members were sad that Pandikar Amin, who is 47, had had to relinquish his post although he is still keen to serve.

"It's difficult to pull ourselves from a post, especially in the cabinet. It's very sad because the cabinet is the place where we determine the fate of the nation and the people.

"As such, we may feel more isolated than usual and a retirement is something sad although for some people, it is a release from a heavy responsibility," he said.

The prime minister said that he really appreciated the service, views and advice given by every minister in the cabinet.

Wishing Pandikar Amin well, he expressed the hope that he would continue to be actively involved in politics and maybe be re-appointed to the cabinet through other means like winning the election.

"God willing, when we need his help, I believe we'll get it and he won't hesitate to help us in any way," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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