

11 JUL 2002

Abdullah-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR A SUCCESSFUL LEADER, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is a leader who has succeeded in making Malaysia a peaceful and stable country.

The deputy prime minister said Dr Mahathir was also committed to ensuring a smooth transition of power in the government and political stability when he steps down.

Dr Mahathir had told him that a successful leader was one who could leave behind a good and stable government when the time came for him to retire," he said when opening the seventh public service conference at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) in Bukit Kiara, here.

He said the prime minister told him this in a conversation with him when he (Abdullah) was the foreign minister.

Dr Mahathir announced recently that he would be quitting his political and government posts after the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in October next year.

Abdullah, who was touched to be named by Dr Mahathir as his successor, said the prime minister's decision to retire was probably prompted by his success in turning the country's economy around and ensuring that the country continued to enjoy political stability.

Abdullah hoped that all parties, especially the public administration, would continue to preserve peace and stability in the country to ensure that Malaysia continued to progress.

"Our country will not be really developed without political stability. Political stability paves the way for the administration to run efficient," he said.

He said the commitment of the enforcement agencies, especially the police, was also important to ensure continued peace.

He said his responsibility when he takes over the helm of the country was a challenging one for him.

He appreciated all the support given by various parties including the Administrative and Diplomatic Service Association and hoped that the public administration would continue to provide efficient service in the interest of the country and people.

Abdullah praised the association for organising today's conference to discuss globalisation and future challenges because it is a topic that the decision-makers must be familiar with.

-- BERNAMA

AFY AZZ JK