

07 SEP 2002

Najib-Leadership

DR MAHATHIR'S ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENTS BASIS FOR PROSPERITY

PANGKOR, Perak, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's enormous achievements have provided the basis for the country's continued prosperity.

"Much if not all of Malaysia's present success must be attributed to Dr Mahathir. He has turned Malaysia into an advanced developing country and there is much enthusiasm for the future," he said.

Najib said Dr Mahathir's vision of making Malaysia a developed nation had broken the mental barriers of the population and had given much confidence to Malaysians in their ability to transform society.

He said this in his keynote address "Malaysia: Building a Modern and Stable Multi-racial Nation" at the opening of the "Asian Global Leadership Forum: The Pangkor Retreat" here.

He said Dr Mahathir's eventual successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi would no doubt provide mature and experienced leadership as he had served under previous Prime Ministers.

Abdullah, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, will take over the helm when Dr Mahathir retires in October next year.

Najib said one cannot stress enough the critical role of leadership in determining the success of a nation and Malaysia "was fortunate to have leaders who emerged at the right time."

"It is, if they are destined to arrive during a particular time of the nation's history. From the Tunku (Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj ) to Dr Mahathir, these are leaders that have placed the country on the world map," he said.

He said the Tunku's affable character, displaying much diplomatic dexterity, was ideal for the road towards independence.

Najib said Malaysia's second Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, (Najib's father), was there from the beginning to ensure that the seeds of the equitable distribution of the country's wealth were sown.

His successor Tun Hussein Onn was there to provide a smooth and reassuring transfer while Dr Mahathir arrived at a time when the country needed a leader who was both a visionary and an achiever.

-- BERNAMA

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