

Leading for 22 years is enough, says Dr M

STAR 30 OCT 2003

KUALA LUMPUR: Leading the country for 22 years is enough, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is looking forward to retiring in two days' time.

"I've had my time. Now it's other people's turn. Before I didn't have my day. Before I didn't have my say. Now I've had 22 years. I think that's enough.

"If I live a 100 years there will still be things that can't have been done by others. I can't complain. I'm quite

happy as I am. Please record that," the Prime Minister said after a Federal Territory Umno breaking of fast function at the National Mosque yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether he would be content to stay at home instead of being in a position where he could make his brilliant ideas happen.

He replied that he was looking forward to his retirement.

As to whether he would miss the

job, he said: "You miss some, you don't miss some."

Dr Mahathir said there was no need to offer advice to his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"No, I think he knows exactly what we have been doing all this while," he said, adding that decisions were made with the consent of all members of the Cabinet which included Abdullah.

Abdullah was also present.

On whether Abdullah had sought his advice on whom to pick as the new Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir said: "No. No advice. It's his business."

Before the breaking of fast with 10,000 people, Dr Mahathir said he was pleased that there were many non-Muslims present as this was a way to foster understanding among the people of various religions and races in the country.