

Expression of gratitude

STAR - 4 NOV 2003

PM's motion of thanks to Dr M gets an 'aye'

KUALA LUMPUR: Parliament gave a resounding 'aye' to a motion of thanks to Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad with Barisan leaders, led by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, paying tribute to the man who headed the nation for 22 years.

Tabling the motion, Abdullah said: "Dr Mahathir had left behind a legacy of success that has sustained political stability, strengthened national unity, promoted economic development and given meaning to the country's independence."

Supporting the motion, MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said the sadness felt over Dr Mahathir's resignation could not be expressed enough through words, advertisements or functions held in honour of the former Prime Minister.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu called the former premier an economic wizard for saving the country from the 1998 economic crisis, and a hero to the Third World.

"He is a multi-talented leader – he is one in a million. He is a doctor, architect, engineer, artist, businessman and orator. He is also a teacher, thinker, planner and implementer. He is father and a friend. Most important of all, he is a statesman," he said.

Upko president Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok said that Oct 31, 2003,

was a historic day to show that democracy was and would always be "alive and kicking" in Malaysia.

"I cannot think of a smoother transition of power – concluded with the pomp and splendour of modern day Malaysia – in the rest of the developing world.

"Yet, it has come about all because Dr Mahathir, who has been called a dictator and a suppressor of democracy, has decided to pass on the baton to his successor in the old-fashioned democratic way by resigning," he said.

PBB president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Dr Mahathir had changed the country's structure and turned it into a modern nation.

"Dr Mahathir has always been constant in his attention to Sarawak. He came to Sarawak each year to monitor the state's development and gave ideas to improve its economy and policies," he said.

SUPP president Datuk Law Hieng Ding said Dr Mahathir was a dedicated leader who always urged other leaders to remain close to the people.

Datuk Ruhanie Ahmad (BN – Parit Sulong) proposed the setting up of the Malaysian Leadership Foundation to encourage the intellectual studies of the wisdom of the past prime ministers, particularly Dr Mahathir's.

"His contributions, which had been documented in his speeches, working papers, magazines and books, will become a priceless legacy that will shape the history of modern Malaysia."

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