

19 DEC 2003

Abdullah-Tribute

ABDULLAH DESCRIBES TUN DR MAHATHIR AS A GREAT STATESMAN

PUTRAJAYA, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad badawi has expressed his highest appreciation to his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the latter's contributions which have enabled Malaysia to emerge as a successful nation, envied by others on the international scene.

Describing the former Prime Minister as a great statesman with exceptionally high vision, Abdullah said: Tun's contributions cannot be measured. I represent all Malaysians in thanking you for your contributions, guidance, ideas and opinions. Your sacrifices are priceless."

Abdullah said this at the Administrative and Diplomatic Service Association's annual dinner which also paid tribute to Dr Mahathir and wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

Paying a similar tribute to Dr Siti Hasmah, Abdullah said she had sacrificed a lot for the country.

In a lighter vein, Abdullah said he was happy to see that both Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah looked fine since Dr Mahathir's retirement on Oct 31.

"I think they are looking younger than I am. Obviously the chemistry of being together now is working wonders on them," he said, drawing applause from those present.

Abdullah said under Dr Mahathir's leadership, the country saw rapid infrastructural development which put the country's name prominently on the world map, giving high value to the name "Malaysia".

"It is a recognition to political stability, economic strength, racial unity and high spirits of Malaysians to develop the country under Tun's leadership," he said.

Abdullah admitted that his duty now was to manage and maintain the success achieved all these while and this could only be done with the support of all Malaysians.

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