

21 JUN 2003

Hadi-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING CHANGES, SAYS HADI

KUALA TERENGGANU, June 22 (Bernama) -- PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang today acknowledged that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has succeeded in bringing changes to the country and the Malay race, especially in the field of economy.

He said although he had frequently criticised what the Prime Minister had done, it could not be denied that Dr Mahathir had carried out several reforms that had not been done by previous leaders.

"I feel that although I criticise him, I don't agree with some matters (Dr Mahathir had done), there are several reforms that Dr Mahathir had carried out, in administration, that were not done by previous Umno leaders.

"Among them are his (Dr Mahathir's) efforts to give a place for the Malays in economy, this I don't deny," he said when met by reporters at his office, here.

Hadi, who is also Terengganu Menteri Besar said the measures taken to help the Malays in the economy were appropriate to ensure their success as they were lacking in that field compared to the other races.

Hadi said he also agreed with the measures taken by Dr Mahathir in handling the economic crisis faced by the country before by rejecting aid from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said this had indirectly rejected interference by the financial organisation which was controlled by foreign powers in the country's financial system.

However, Hadi felt that Dr Mahathir was actually still dissatisfied with the achievement as there were still some matters that had not been resolved.

When asked if Dr Mahathir needed to postpone his retirement to resolve these matters, Hadi said Dr Mahathir had made a decision to retire and this could no longer be questioned, but Dr Mahathir must make a daring change.

"He had made a decision to retire, we can't say anything on this, but he should make a daring change before retiring, create history before he steps down, that is by giving nourishment to democracy," he said.

Hadi said PAS would continue to support those reforms in efforts to assist the Malays, and Dr Mahathir's successor must make several changes.

He said assistance should not only be confined to the Malays but also extended to the other communities who were still weak economically.

Those who were successful economically must also cooperate to assist the other races like the Malays instead of oppressing them for self-interest, he said.

Asked whether the power transition in Umno would be advantageous to PAS, Hadi said: "We would prefer that our success is achieved through our own strength and not merely exploiting on the problems faced by Umno," he added.

-- BERNAMA

HIS AO