

15 SEP 2003

Mahathir-Employees

DR MAHATHIR PRAISES CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SERVANTS

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight praised and expressed appreciation for the professional attitude shown by Malaysia's civil servants who have given great support to ensure the success of the policies and programmes of the federal government in developing the country.

The Prime Minister said members of the civil service were very committed to their work regardless of whether they agreed or disagreed with any policy or programme drawn up by the government.

"I am grateful because this had made it easier for me to discharge my duty throughout my term as Prime Minister," he said when attending a gathering of the Leader With the People as well as dinner with about 15,000 members of the federal civil service and the Kelantan government, here tonight.

Dr Mahathir also hoped that the cooperation given to him by the civil servants would also continue to be given to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who would succeed him.

He said that with continued support for the future leadership, national development could be implemented continuously for the benefit of the people.

Dr Mahathir also said everyone in the country should be proud when foreign tourists and guests who came to Malaysia expressed awe with the nation's rapid development.

"They always ask how we managed to develop Malaysia (whereas) we have many problems like having a population with many races, religions, culture and languages.

"However, in that situation, we can still ensure our country is peaceful, calm and stable," he said.

The Prime Minister also praised the commitment shown by members of the country's security forces who served to ensure the country was peaceful and was not threatened.

"They served with decorum to ensure the country is peaceful, while at the same time, there are security forces of other countries who do not agree with their government and try to topple their own government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there were also foreign leaders who had visited the country and wrongly interpreted that Malaysia was a developed nation and not a developing country.

"All this happened when the leaders were in this country for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1989. If they were to come today, they will certainly be more impressed," he said.

The Prime Minister was here for a one-day official visit to Kelantan.

At the end of the function, when Dr Mahathir stepped out of the hall of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Putera Kota Baharu, the people including school children who had gathered there since the afternoon rushed to shake hands with the Prime Minister and wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The atmosphere turned sad when a nostalgic song by Tan Sri P. Ramlee "Di Mana Kan Ku Cari Ganti" (Where Can I Find A Replacement) was sung by the people as a final farewell to Dr Mahathir who steps down as Prime Minister next month.

-- BERNAMA

RAR AO

