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Abdullah-Leaders

EMULATE DR MAHATHIR'S COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP, UMNO LEADERS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today called on Umno leaders at various levels to emulate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's bold and courageous leadership in facing all forms of challenges to ensure the party's success.

Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said it had been proven that Dr Mahathir had succeeded in leading the party.

"With his courageous and credible leadership, he succeeded in unifying all groups in Umno, making Umno a progressive and viable party, and can be successful in future," he said when speaking at the breaking of fast function with the president and deputy president at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir will retire tomorrow after helming the country as prime minister and Umno president for 22 years.

Abdullah will be sworn in as the country's fifth Prime Minister at Istana Negara tomorrow.

Abdullah said the leadership style displayed by Dr Mahathir must be followed and emulated by all.

"Every division head, youth, wanita and puteri chiefs and committee members must follow Dr Mahathir's leadership style.

"Each and everyone must try to unite all the groups so that there will be nobody who will feel isolated and no squabbling with one another.

"Most importantly, we want Umno to be united, become strong, vibrant and we will succeed," he said.

On behalf of Umno members, Abdullah said he wished to convey his sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Mahathir for his immense contributions to the party, especially to the Malays, and for turning Malaysia into a progressive and prosperous nation.

Although everyone was sad that Dr Mahathir would retire from all posts, Umno members were happy with his willingness to continue helping and supporting the party, he said.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir's role to assist the party, albeit as an ordinary member, would help Umno to achieve success.

He said Dr Mahathir's contributions through leadership by example could enhance the party's position.

During the Umno Supreme Council meeting this evening, Dr Mahathir explained the approaches adopted by Umno to ensure the party achieved bigger success in future, he said.

He said Dr Mahathir emphasised that unity was of paramount importance, particularly in the 14-party Barisan Nasional (BN), to ensure the coalition continued to struggle for the people and country.

He also explained issues that need to be looked at seriously and called on all BN component parties to cooperate to propel the country to greater heights.

Abdullah said he spoke on behalf of the supreme council and Umno members that they valued the leadership provided by Dr Mahathir to Umno and the country.

"We value his vast services and big sacrifice, his significant contributions to the extent of making Malaysia prosperous and well-known worldwide," he said.

Umno Secretary-General Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said a function would be held after the fasting month to thank Dr Mahathir officially for all his

good deeds to the country and people.

"Not only the whole nation is touched and feel a great loss following his retirement, we know that this is the fate and we also know Dr Mahathir has devoted all his efforts and energy to develop this country," he added.

Thousands of Umno members from 165 divisions attended the breaking of fast, followed by Isyak and Terawih prayers.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Members of Parliament and BN component party members, including non-Muslims.

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