

29 DEC 2003

Assembly-Pahang (Mahathir)

PAHANG ASSEMBLY APPROVES MOTION ON ABDULLAH AND DR MAHATHIR

KUANTAN, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- The Pahang state legislative assembly here today unanimously approved a motion, congratulating Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad on his appointment as the country's fifth prime minister and thanking his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his services and contributions.

The motion was tabled by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and supported by Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Tan Aminuddin Ishak.

Two assemblymen -- Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman (BN-Beserah) and Idris Omar (PAS-Semantan) -- spoke during the debate.

Idris, in supporting the motion, said that while people were full of praise for Dr Mahathir's achievements, he had his share of failures too.

"Dr Mahathir failed to meet the 30 per cent quota under the New Economic Policy he introduced, failed to produce more Bumiputera accountants, doctors, architects and lawyers under his education policy, failed to implement basic human rights with the continuation of the ISA (Internal Security Act) and failed to enhance racial unity in the country," he said.

Fauzi meanwhile described Dr Mahathir's four major achievements as abolishing ignorance through the development of national education, tackling poverty through his economic growth policy, improving the health standard and addressing untruthfulness in the country.

Dr Mahathir's service to the country was immeasurable, he said.

Adnan, in his winding-up, said the opposition member was not sincere when he supported the motion as reflected by his criticism of Dr Mahathir.

"If he (Dr Mahathir) is said to have failed, it is because we lecturers like the members for Semantan and Jengka who were busy involving in politics than teaching their students," he said, referring to Idris, a former Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) lecturer and Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man (PAS-Jengka), a former UiTM lecturer.

On racial unity, Adnan said Umno and other Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties were always promoting racial unity unlike the opposition parties.

Speaker Datuk Wan Mohamad Razali Wan Mahussin then adjourned the state assembly sine die.

-- BERNAMA

MS ABG