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Parliament-Debate (Appreciation)

SABAH AND SARAWAK LEADERS RECORD APPRECIATION TO TUN MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Several Sabah and Sarawak leaders today recorded their appreciation to former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his deeds and at the same time pledged to give their undivided support to the new Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said Sabah bumiputeras and non-bumiputeras had benefited tremendously from Dr Mahathir's constructive ideas on the management of the country's economy.

Dompok, who is also president of the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) said the people were looking forward to a bright future and awaiting the success of the Vision 2020 mooted by Dr Mahathir.

"The date Oct 31, 2003 (the appointment of the new Prime Minister) must be memorised by historians in future, This date is another significant milestone as it shows that democracy is still being practised in this country," he said when debating the motion of thanks to Dr Mahathir tabled by Abdullah at the Dewan Rakyat today.

Dompok (BN-Kinabalu) said Dr Mahathir, who had been branded as a dictator and oppressor of democracy all this while, had handed over power to his successor in the 'old democratic' manner by resigning.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Sarawak had transformed from a backward state to become one of the developed states in the country under Dr Mahathir's leadership.

Abdul Taib (BN-Kota Samarahan), who is also president of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu Sarawak (PBB), said the former Prime Minister had given consistent attention to Sarawak and had frequently contributed new ideas in terms of economic development to the extent that Sarawak now had diversified economic activities.

He said Sarawak supported Abdullah as a Prime Minister with wide experience to continue the leadership of the country and play a more excellent role.

Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Law Hieng Ding praised Dr Mahathir because under his leadership Malaysia had achieved excellence.

"Dr Mahathir's success and spirit would be the pride of the future generation," said the deputy president of Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP).

Law (BN-Sarikei) said SUPP pledged to give undivided support to Abdullah.

SUPP would give its loyalty and commitment and would work hard to assist the new Prime Minister, he said.

He said the country was fortunate as it had a successor who was equally credible and had wide experience to lead the country.

The house later passed the motion of thanks.

-- BERNAMA

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