

29 SEP 2003

Sultan-Mahathir

SULTAN OF SELANGOR DESCRIBES DR MAHATHIR AS LEADER WITH MISSION,
VISSION

KLANG, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah of Selangor tonight described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a leader who has a clear vision and mission and works hard to achieve his objectives.

Ths Sultan said Dr Mahathir also refused to bow to external or internal pressure and had high ambitions for the race, religion and country.

"His leadership created peace in this country, and as Prime Minister, he made the Malays aware about opening their minds towards success from a race which was once labelled lazy by the imperialists," he said at the Darjah Kerabat DiRaja Selangor award ceremony at the Istana Alam Shah here tonight.

Sultan Sharafuddin said that the peace and development of Selangor was also the result of Dr Mahathir's wisdom which had created abundant job opportunities and attracted many investors which had brought progress to the state and realised Selangor's aspiration to become a developed state by 2005.

He reminded those who had come to the state to earn a living not to be selfish but to also contribute towards the social development of the people.

In a lighter vein, the Sultan also said he was impressed with Dr Mahathir's good health and zeal at such an age that he could administer the country and overcome whatever problems there were.

"I will find out the secret from Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah on how Dr Mahathir could maintain his handsome looks and succeed," he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin also said Dr Mahathir's integrity had been acknowledged even at the global level where Malaysia had become a model Islamic state.

Meanwhile, in his reply, Dr Mahathir said he was grateful for the award which was truly meaningful for him and his family.

"The award certainly has a significant meaning to me and my family. I sincerely thank Tuanku Sultan and Raja Muda Tengku Amir Shah and pray that they will always have Allah's blessing," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SHS NER EMK/AO