

06 OCT 2003

Mahathir-Success

WE WANT MORE AS A NATION, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia wants to carve more successes for itself apart from the ones already gained, and it is the responsibility of his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, to achieve this when he takes over the helm of the nation.

The Prime Minister said that the country and the people were doing well and, unlike before, Malaysia was quite well known internationally.

He also paid tribute to civil servants for their contributions in implementing all government policies and plans to develop the nation and enrich its citizens.

"Actually, we want more but it will be the responsibility of Pak Lah (after this)," Dr Mahathir said when he attended the monthly gathering of the Prime Minister's Department for the last time before he steps down at the end of the month.

The Prime Minister said that any government policy, plan or project would be meaningless until it was successfully implemented by an efficient government with the support of all civil servants.

"The support for government policies and projects up to their successful implementation until now is very much appreciated by me and the government," he said.

While pay was important, he said, government servants must inculcate the attitude that what was more important was the satisfaction to see the fruition of their labour.

Elaborating on what should make a Malaysian government servant ticks, he said: "We work because we love our country. We do not mind working a few extra minutes or a few extra hours but we get satisfaction from work well done," he said.

Nevertheless, Dr Mahathir said that it was the government's intention to see that civil servants enjoy better pay but they should be patient because the matter must be tackled in a judicious manner.

"We need to manage our finances properly. There should not be too high an increase. Be patient, there will be an increase (in salary), Inshaallah. But what is more important is our contribution to the country so that our country can prosper," he said.

In a lighter vein, Dr Mahathir shared his "secrets" to stamp Malaysia's mark on the world stage.

"If we are too good, others would not accord us recognition. So we have to be nasty in order to be recognised," he said, drawing laughter from those present, including Abdullah, Ministers in the Prime Minister's Department and other senior government officials.

Throughout his career, Dr Mahathir has won admirers for his vocal personality so much so that he and Malaysia are seen as the leader of poor and developing nations.

Disclosing another of his strategies to introduce Malaysia to the world, he said: "If we are short, others would not be able to see us. Therefore we need to stand on a drum. Now they can see our Petronas Twin Towers (which is among the world's tallest buildings). So, today, we are quite well known."

Dr Mahathir said that these strategies had paid off as attested by the growing number of visitors to the country.

-- BERNAMA

MAM MAM RM