

21 AUG 2004

MIC-Tribute

MIC PAYS TRIBUTE TO ABDULLAH FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

SHAH ALAM, Aug 21 (Bernama ) -- The MIC, the largest Indian-based political party in the country with over 640,000 members, today paid tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for winning the "hearts and minds" of Malaysians in such a short span of time since taking office in October last year.

"In a short span of time in office as Prime Minister, you have carved a remarkable image in the hearts and minds of all Malaysians. It is your love, concern and caring spirit for all Malaysians that continuously draws people towards you.

"You have created a new art for listening to the people, which is a fundamental quality of a leader. Your simplicity and generosity have become the foundations for political services to humanity," MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said in his policy address at the two-day 58th MIC annual general assembly here.

The assembly was opened by Abdullah, who is Umno president and Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, and attended by most of the 14 BN component party leaders. Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, along with 4,500 MIC delegates.

Samy Vellu, who is also the Works Minister, said the new slogan of the BN -- Towards a Malaysia of Excellence, Glory and Distinction -- coined by Abdullah, had captured the imagination and expectations of the people.

"Prime Minister sir, MIC salutes you for the resounding victory in the recent general election. The Barisan Nasional secured the best ever victory by gaining 90 per cent of seats in Parliament. This is one of the greatest tributes that the people of Malaysia have given you for your dedication to this nation.

"Sir, your motto of asking people to work with you and not for you has stimulated a new impetus for partnership and collaboration in nation-building. These people-centred initiatives have won the confidence of the grassroots," he said.

Samy Vellu said that MIC leaders and delegates to the assembly must reflect on these noble principles of good governance instituted by the Prime Minister.

He said Abdullah had challenged all politicians to uphold noble principles such as personal ethics, integrity, transparency and accountability in public office and institutions, with elected representatives asked to exhibit a higher degree of responsibility by adhering to a code of ethics and meet the performance measurement index, initiated by Abdullah.

"These values are now being translated into practice through institutions and mechanisms which check on abuse of power and corruption. Effective and efficient delivery and implementation of public services are also major dimensions of our Prime Minister's efforts in strengthening good governance in Malaysia," he said.

Samy Vellu said the party also appreciated Abdullah's gesture in providing an additional deputy minister and parliamentary secretary positions to the MIC which would further strengthen the cause of the party to serve the Malaysian Indian community.

-- BERNAMA

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