

14 JAN 2004

Abdullah-Dr Mahathir

REALISE DR MAHATHIR'S WISH TO WIN BIG IN POLLS, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah

Ahmad Badawi tonight called on Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders to fulfil Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's New Year dream to deliver a resounding victory for the ruling coalition in the coming general election.

Abdullah, who is also BN Chairman, said it was one way of saying Thank You to the former Prime Minister for his 22 years of dynamic leadership.

"I still remember a quote in the newspapers when Dr Mahathir was asked what is your New Year (2004) wish for this year, he said I wish Barisan Nasional will win in the next general election.

"His wish must be our effort to achieve victory. His wish must be our hard work and effective work. Our effort will only succeed if it is a total effort of all of us," he said when speaking at a "Jasamu Dikenang" premier dinner in honour of Dr Mahathir organised by the BN in appreciation of his immense contributions to the country and people.

To emerge victorious in the general election, Abdullah said everybody must give their total commitment without anyone sleeping or excusing himself from giving his best.

Present were Dr Mahathir, his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, leaders of 14 BN component party leaders and members.

Abdullah said there was no other way to remember the contributions of a great leader like Dr Mahathir than pursuing his struggles till his vision becomes a reality.

"But we can only achieve it if we all continue to be united, cooperate and work together. We must cooperate and work closely, this is what is expected by our great leader.

"Although he is no longer the BN Chairman today, for us in the BN, he

is still our leader," he said.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had made every Malaysian feel proud of the successes attained by the country under his leadership.

"When people ask what is Dr Mahathir's legacy that is so significant to me, I say Dr Mahathir has given me self-pride not merely in inheriting his position as Prime Minister, but as a Malaysian because our country has developed, we are a successful race because of country is safe and prosperous and because our country is known worldwide.

"I am a Malaysian proud with all these successes," he said.

Abdullah said many leaders wished to emulate the leadership of Dr Mahathir, the Father of Modern Malaysia, but "your leadership style is not easily emulated."

He said Dr Mahathir provided exemplary leadership and always gave priority to the people and party.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir's leadership can be seen from the BN's dominance during his 22-year administration.

He said the BN Government made vast contributions to develop the country.

Earlier, Abdullah accompanied Dr Mahathir to unveil a portrait of Dr Mahathir and Abdullah together at the lobby of the fourth floor of Putra World Trade Centre.

The portrait, drawn by local artist Ismail Embong, showed Dr Mahathir raising Abdullah's hand against the backdrop of BN and Umno logos as a symbol of his successor.

Abdullah also accompanied Dr Mahathir to unveil another portrait of Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah together.

-- BERNAMA

NM NM TOM