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RAFIDAH-BOOK

SHOW OF STRENGTH, MATURITY OF DR M IN HANDING OVER OF POWER, SAYS  
RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- The strength and maturity of a leader is seen in his ability to hand over power at the appropriate time, Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said.

She said the timing and grace with which Tun Dr Mahathir handed over the reins of the country to (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi spoke volumes of the former as a statesman.

"The handing over which was done with such deliberation and precision, is indicative of Dr Mahathir's focus on national rather than personal interests," she said when launching a book entitled "Passing the Baton: From Mahathir to Abdullah Ahmad Badawi - A Model for Effective Leadership Succession here today.

Her speech was read by Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Datuk Ir Ho Cheong Sing.

The book was written by Datuk Dr Ismail Noor, a management consultant, author and public speaker.

Rafidah said throughout his career, Dr Mahathir worked with the interest of the nation at heart guided by his vision of having Malaysia shine and to instill in all of us the love of nation.

"Having witnessed the manner in which the baton was firmly passed into the hands of (Datuk Seri) Abdullah, we have full confidence that he will be doing his utmost to run the good race and also with national interests at heart, she said.

"Having been in government for a good part of his life, Abdullah understands the value of deliberate and enlightened responses. This is clearly seen in the timing of the appointment of his deputy and the minor reshuffle of the Cabinet," she added.

Rafidah said the smooth transition this country witnessed on Oct 31, 2003 was in large part of a commendation to the way Barisan Nasional

managed the country.

"Throughout all the challenges that component parties faced throughout the years, we have always put national interest before party and self interests. It is because our commitment to the nation that we continue to win the confidence of the electorate," she said.

The author, Ismail who served in the Malaysian administrative and diplomatic service for some years before resigning to set up his own management consultancy firm, said that the book "Passing the Baton" was about two persons who are national leaders of international stature.

"More importantly, it is about the modus operandi for leadership succession. I view it, the mode for transition exacted by Dr Mahathir, in what I refer to as a seven-step process, traced from the selection and announcement of a candidate for succession right up to the time, when he passed the baton on Oct 31, 2003, as promised," he said.

Ismail said his contention was that the issue of leadership succession was surely one of the most overlooked priorities in modern political and societal history. be it at international, regional or local levels.

Only 1,000 copies of the book, a special edition, were printed and each costs RM100. -- BERNAMA

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