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Dr M: Abdullah a capable PM

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LANGKAWI, Mon. - Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad praised Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for his successful three months in office, saying he had shown that he was a capable Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said his successor had achieved good progress in meeting his goals since Abdullah first took office in Oct 31.

"He has achieved good progress and has shown his capability as Prime Minister. I pray that he will continue to achieve success," Dr Mahathir told reporters after visiting the Sumber Nadi Alam tiger prawn farm project in Bukit Malut, here.

Abdullah, in recent interviews had said his three months in office had been good and that he was encouraged by the tremendous support from all Malaysians.

The Prime Minister said his policy initiatives had created a good feeling and greater confidence in the Government and promised to pursue the agenda he had spelt out with vigour and dedication, stressing that these moves were not "populist measures" to win votes.

During the visit to the tiger prawn farm project, Dr Mahathir and wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali released 50,000 black tiger prawn fry into one of the project's 22 ponds.

The former Prime Minister also called on entrepreneurs not to let "wasteful politicking" to affect their business.

"Politics is okay. My brand of politics, for example, is the type which brings development, unlike the politics practised by some other people," he said, declining to elaborate.

He described the project as a good example of a successful local business venture, adding that the country was full of business opportunities.

"This land had been vacant for 13 years. Now it is a successful venture."