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`Dr M has proven Malaysia is his biggest project'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has proven that Malaysia is his biggest project, achieving tremendous success for the nation which has made him the greatest Malay leader in the nation's history, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said tonight.

Launching the Encyclopedia of Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, at International Islamic University Malaysia, Abdullah said with Dr Mahathir at the helm for 22 years, Malaysia was now on the world map.

"Dr Mahathir's encyclopedia exhibits his intellectual gifts as a thinker with a thinking style which is synergistic and eclectic, very ahead of time. He generates and sparks ideas with his enthusiasm coupled with boundless energy, successfully dispersing ideas that have propelled Malaysia to its present status in Asia and the world."

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir's ideas and visions had been proven by, among others, the Multimedia Super Corridor, Putrajaya, Twin Towers and the national car project, Proton.

He said Malaysians must ensure the continuing success of Dr Mahathir's visionary ideas, including the super world-class infrastructure plan, and not to use the plan with a Third World mentality.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had been able to blend his scientific mind with his political mind to generate and spark ideas undreamed of by any other political leader.

"Herein lies Dr Mahathir's exceptional and incomparable gifts as a leader. His ideas are bold, daring and thought provoking, representing a style of leadership that is uncommon among leaders in Asian countries. His legacy (contained in the encyclopedia) will continue to provoke us to ponder and reflect," Abdullah said.

He said Malaysians as well as Muslims would benefit enormously from reading and rereading Dr Mahathir's speeches.

The two-version and bilingual encyclopedia, in Arabic and English, is a compilation of Dr Mahathir's speeches and ideas on globalisation, politics and other issues on Malaysia and Asia.

The encyclopedia, comprising 10 volumes, contains speeches, delivered and presented over the years, reflecting the Prime Minister's views, concerns and ideas on various issues.

Launched at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), the encyclopedia was published by four publishers - two from Cairo and Beirut and two Malaysians.

The encyclopedia will go on sale in the Malaysian market tomorrow and will be available worldwide after an official launch at Oxford University, London, on Tuesday. Each of the Arabic and English versions costs RM1,300 while the bilingual version costs RM2,200.

Also present at the launch were IIUM president Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Dr Hassan El-Zein of publisher Dar-Al-Kitab Al-Masri in Cairo.