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Dr M praised for ability to manage change astutely

KUCHING, Thurs. - One of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's greatest assets is his ability to manage change "very astutely and efficiently".

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said today it was partly because of this that Malaysia was now a success story in many areas.

Opening a seminar on Dr Mahathir's thoughts at a hotel here, he said: "Dr Mahathir's success is not in coming up with ideas but in implementing them effectively."

Taib noted that when Dr Mahathir became Prime Minister in 1983, Malaysia was already "partially modern" and the people were ready for what he (Taib) described as "intellectual fertilisation".

"Dr Mahathir saw this potential and harnessed it to the full," he said.

Taib said one of Dr Mahathir's struggles was his continuous efforts in advising Malaysians to have confidence in their own abilities.

One of the best examples of his self-confidence was going ahead with the Proton Saga car project despite criticisms from many quarters.

"He soldiered on when faced with adversity because he believes that his struggles are noble and that the people would eventually support him. The power of noble intentions should be appreciated," he said.