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PM's decision to contribute after retirement earns praise

PENANG, Sat. - Rural Development Minister Datuk Azmi Khalid today lauded Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to continue playing an active role in local politics and in the international arena after his retirement.

Azmi said he was happy to hear that the Prime Minister would continue contributing to Umno even after his retirement next month.

"We need him for his knowledge and expertise in politics and world affairs," he said after officiating at the State National Social Development Department (Kemas) kindergartens' sports carnival at Universiti Sains Malaysia here.

Present were Permatang Berangan State Assemblyman Abd Roni A Hassan, who represented State Agriculture, Fishery and Rural Development Committee chairman Datuk Azhar Ibrahim, and Kemas deputy director Datuk Ibrahim Narek.

Azmi said this when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement in New York that he would continue to play an active role in local politics as well as in the international arena after his retirement.

Dr Mahathir had made the statement after delivering his address at the United Nations' 58th general assembly on Thursday.

Azmi said he was heartened to hear that Dr Mahathir would not entirely withdraw from politics.

"His analyses of local and international politics has enabled us to emerge triumphant in many aspects. In his 13-minute speech at the UN, the Prime Minister managed to give an insight on all the major problems in the world. This is a clear indication of his tremendous abilities."

He said the good response received by the Dr Mahathir for his speech signified that he was highly respected in the international arena.