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Keing Yaik pays tribute to Dr Mahathir

Zubaidah Abu Bakar; Patrick Sennyah; Chow Kum Hor  
GERAKAN president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik yesterday conferred upon Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the title of "Father of Modernisation" in recognition of the Prime Minister's contribution to the country.

Although not an official title, Dr Lim said it carried the highest appreciation and respect from Gerakan members nationwide.

Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said this when delivering his presidential address at the party's 32nd Delegates' Conference which was opened by Dr Mahathir in Menara PGRM.

In his speech entitled "The Mahathir Legacy", Dr Lim paid tribute to the Prime Minister who had contributed tremendously for 22 years to the country in various fields.

Dr Lim said the Vision 2020 drawn up by Dr Mahathir had spelt out clearly the objectives, and the challenges the country must face. This was the vision shared by Gerakan, he said.

"Dr Mahathir's long political career is an epic in itself that is worth studying.

"His political career is nothing short of a grand adventure, one filled with challenges and heart-stopping moments," said Dr Lim.

Dr Mahathir's formula in keeping the 14-party Barisan Nasional strong and united was the "no winner takes all and no loser loses all" approach, Dr Lim added.

In economic policies, he said, Dr Mahathir had proven sceptics wrong many times, especially with his unorthodox measures to counter currency speculators.

Dr Lim added that under Dr Mahathir's leadership, many world-class infrastructures, like the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, the Petronas Twin Towers and Port of Tanjung Pelepas, were completed.

"No other leader in Malaysian history has given so much emphasis and hope to the creation of a Bangsa Malaysia than Dr Mahathir."

Dr Lim said Gerakan would continue to pursue Dr Mahathir's ideals like ensuring that Malaysians behave and act like First World people.

In terms of foreign policy, Dr Lim said Dr Mahathir had always pursued the "prosper thy neighbour" concept and vigorously promoting South-South co-operation.

The Prime Minister, he said, had also espoused the need to approach international relations and agreements fairly.

"I am sure many of his thoughts and views remain relevant and crucial in shaping our regional and international policy after October 2003," said Dr Lim.