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Lim: Dr M has laid solid foundation

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik tonight expressed confidence that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will continue to pursue the country's development policies when he becomes Prime Minister.

Claiming to speak as a "veteran political watcher", Dr Lim said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has laid the foundation for the country to move towards attaining a developed nation status.

"He will keep oiling the machinery," Dr Lim said at the Gerakan Deepavali open house tonight.

Dr Lim, who is also Primary Industries Minister, said it would take a "mad man" to change the development policy that the country had pursued over the years.

He said Abdullah might only need to fine-tune existing policies, like enhancing rural development and addressing the problem of the urban poor.

Dr Lim also said that Abdullah would develop his own style of leadership which Malaysians would be able to adapt to.

"Tun Abdul Razak's leadership was different from his predecessor Tengku Abdul Rahman. Tun Hussein Onn's was different from Razak and Dr Mahathir's style was different from Hussein's. Each has his own unique style," said Dr Lim, who has served as a Cabinet Minister under three Prime Ministers.