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Malaysians bid farewell to a dedicated leader

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Malaysians, while missing a dedicated and visionary leader in Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, welcomed an equally capable person - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi - to take over the stewardship of the nation as the fifth Prime Minister.

Social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said: "After having served 22 years as Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir has left an indelible mark in Malaysia's history. His many contributions will undoubtedly be appreciated by friends and foes alike. As a true patriot and visionary, his achievements are numerous."

Malaysian Associated Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Datuk K. Kenneth Eswaran thanked Dr Mahathir for steering Malaysia from a mere agriculture based economy unknown to the world into a world-respected developing country with robust industrialisation.

Malaysian Businessmen and Industrialists Association president Datuk Moehamad Izat Emir said Malaysians were indebted to Dr Mahathir for his untiring effort to make the country what it is today.

Victoria Institution Old Boys' Association president Yusli Yusoff said: "Dr Mahathir's dedication and sacrifices has resulted in our prosperity, harmony and our ability to defend Malaysia's sovereignty and independence. He has charted clearly the nation's future through his vision."

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said Dr Mahathir has made Malaysians feel proud of their country.

The Malaysian Youth Council secretary-general Norizan Sharif said Dr Mahathir was the biggest gift from God to Malaysians and the nation.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok wished Dr Mahathir a happy retired life with his family and wished all of them good health.

Past president of Internal Auditors Association Madhu Marimuthu said Dr Mahathir was a visionary leader.