

19 AUG 1999

Li-Mahathir

CHINA PRAISES MAHATHIR'S COURAGE

By: Ali Mamat

BEIJING, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- China today praised the great courage of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian government and people in the face of power politics and the determination of Malaysians to pursue a road most suitable for their country.

Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqing said that on many major international issues, Dr Mahathir and the Malaysian government would uphold justice and always speak out in the interest of developing countries.

"Malaysia has scored remarkable success in achieving social stability, ethnic harmony and economic development under Prime Minister Dr Mahathir," Li said addressing the 3rd Malaysia-China Forum here. Dr Mahathir delivered his keynote address at the forum.

According to Li, China noted with pleasure that after more than two years of strenuous efforts, Malaysia had already embarked on a track of economic recovery.

"We believe that under Dr Mahathir's leadership, and with its sound infrastructure, rich resources and hard-working people, Malaysia will be able to again witness the revitalization of its economy after necessary readjustment," he said.

Li also spoke on Sino-Malaysian cooperation.

He said their cooperation in areas like investment, finance, science, technology and IT (information technology) industry was growing and had broad prospects.

On the domestic front, Li said that on the whole China's economy had maintained a good momentum of growth this year.

Its GDP in the first six months of the year grew 7.6 per cent over that of the same period last year, Li added.

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