

03 NOV 2003
Parliament-Appreciation (Ong)
DR MAHATHIR LEAVES INDELIBLE MARK, SAYS ONG

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The people will always remember Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia's fourth prime minister, as he has outstandingly led the nation for 22 years, said Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting.

He said Dr Mahathir is a statesman who has guided and placed the nation on the path towards achieving developed status by 2020 and successfully instilled confidence in all Malaysians.

"His contributions and services to the country is so huge, our appreciation through speeches, be it words, writings, advertisements or other forms in the past few days and so far, cannot be fully shown and depicted," said Ong who is also the MCA president.

He said this when seconding the motion to thank Dr Mahathir, moved by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Ong said it cannot be denied that the country's success in economy, education, science, technology, industry, sports and other fields are closely intertwined with Dr Mahathir's policies and direction.

In the international arena, Ong said Malaysia is the country which dared to speak for nations oppressed by the bigger powers especially the western nations.

"Dr Mahathir strongly upholds the principles of justice and fairness. He never bowed to foreign pressures when voicing Malaysia's views and stand on international issues," he said.

Malaysia's success in becoming the most modern nation among the developing countries is the result of Dr Mahathir's leadership which had strategy, dynamism and vision, he said.

"It is most apt when Dr Mahathir is called the "Father of Malaysian Modernisation" as he had successfully transformed the country, from an

impoverished agriculture-based country to an industrialised nation,
on par
with developed countries," he said.

He said the Chinese community in Malaysia saluted Dr Mahathir as
he is
always sensitive to their problems and rendered assistance to
effectively
resolve the issues.

Ong said the Chinese community is confident that Dr Mahathir's
successor would bring Malaysia to greater heights as Abdullah is an
experienced, intelligent, fair and far-sighted leader.

-- BERNAMA

SR SR ZUL