30 OCT 2003
Assembly-Kelantan (Mahathir)
KELANTAN STATE ASSEMBLY RECORDS APPRECIATION FOR DR MAHATHIR

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan State Assembly sitting has unanimously passed an emergency motion to record its appreciation for and thank Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will retire tomorrow.

The motion to take note of the deeds and contribution of Dr Mahathir towards Kelantan's development throughout his 22-year tenure as Prime Minister was tabled at the conclusion of the Kelantan State Assembly sitting which ended today and received the support of all 42 of the 43 members of the State Assembly.

Mohamed Saufi Deraman (BN-Galas) was not present at the sitting today.

The motion, tabled without prior notice given, was proposed by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat and seconded by his deputy, Datuk Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman, and had the agreement of Assembly Speaker Wan Abdul Rahim Wan Abdullah. It was debated for 25 minutes by two Assemblymen namely Norzula Mat Diah (BN-Paloh) and Zulkifli Mamat (PAS-Pulai Chondong).

During the debate, Norzula, who was the sole BN representative at the sitting today, appreciated the open stand of the Kelantan government in tabling the motion and its willingnees to openly record its thanks and appreciation to Dr Mahathir despite the differences in their political ideologies.

He hoped the open stand could continue in future to enable such cooperative spirit to be maintained for the benefit of the people.

Zulkifli said PAS acknowledged that Dr Mahathir had made significant contribution to Kelantan although the state was under the PAS rule, such as approving a federal government assistance of RM600 million to the state government to overcome the problem of water supply faced by the people in the state.

"PAS is not a party that is ungrateful. We are a party that can be approached for discussion and consultation," he said referring to the support of all PAS Assemblymen for the motion.

In his winding-up speech, Abdul Halim said everyone should give their appreciation to Dr Mahathir because the leader who had made much contribution, was "Prime Minister to all the people in the country regardless of party, race and religion".

On Tuesday, Nik Aziz, in his speech when tabling Kelantan's 2004 Budget, also recorded his thanks to Dr Mahathir who had helped a lot in resolving the problems of the people and in implementing development projects in the state.

-- BERNAMA

RAR AO