

21 SEP 2003

Abdullah-Mahathir

"MALAYSIA" IS DR MAHATHIR'S BIGGEST PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahamd Badawi said today Malaysia was Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's biggest project since he assumed the post of Prime Minister.

He said Dr Mahathir had practised what he preached when administering his own country and this was proven from Malaysia's extraordinary successes in various fields.

"Some people say Dr Mahathir is the greatest Malay leader that we have seen in the history of our nation.

"The successes of the Multimedia Super Corridor, the Proton car and the development of Putrajaya and transformation of the federal capital Kuala Lumpur as a modern city proved what he had said and achieved," Abdullah said when launching the Encyclopedia of Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), here tonight.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had proven that what he preached could be achieved and had placed Malaysia in a superb world class.

"We must ensure that the legacy Dr Mahathir leaves us -- 'the superb world class', 'the developed world infrastructure' -- can be used properly and effectively and can give us everlasting success and when we use the first class infrastructure we should never adopt a third class mentality," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Dr Mahathir had accomplished a lot of things and transformed Malaysia from a less well-known nation in Asia to one that was prominent among the newly developed economies in Asia.

"But more importantly, his legacy will be seen in his ever-flowing cornucopia of ideas, thoughts and opinions on a wide range of issues and topic," he said.

Abdullah said the ideas of Dr Mahathir were bold, daring and thought provoking, representing a style of leadership that was uncommon among leaders in Asian countries.

"These ideas will continually challenge and provoke us to ponder and reflect. Laymen and intellectuals will find pearls of wisdom in his ideas and thoughts. Malaysians as well as Muslims (generally) will benefit enormously from reading and re-reading his speeches," Abdullah said.

He said Dr Mahathir had spoken on a wide spectrum of topics and issues ranging from the knowledge-based economy, e-migration, cyber revolution, East Asian Economic Caucus, Multimedia Super Corridor, borderless world and globalisation to problems facing the Muslim Ummah.

"He is the very definition of the word visionary and it is this vision of his that will propel Malaysia forward into the 21st century.

"Dr Mahathir's speeches reflect not only his iconoclastic style of administration and management but more importantly they exhibit his intellectual gifts as a thinker whose thinking style can be said to be synergistic and eclectic in approach," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Dr Mahathir had been able to blend his scientific mind with that of his political mind to generate and spark ideas undreamed of by any other political leaders.

"Herein lies Dr Mahathir's exceptional and incomparable gifts as a leader, coupled with his boundless energy and energetic enthusiasm for work and the Prime Minister has been successful in dispensing ideas that have gravitated Malaysia to its present status in Asia," said Abdullah.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir in his recorded appreciation speech that was aired to the audience, thanked everyone concerned for their willingness to put together all the important thoughts, ideas and vision in one book.

He said the encyclopedia was a multi-volume work that contained his speeches and ideas during his tenure as the Prime Minister of Malaysia which reflected his views, concerns and ideas on important issues.

He also hoped that the encyclopedia would be one of the important

references on the modern Muslim world in the future.

The encyclopedia is sold at RM1,300 per copy per version while the bilingual one costs RM2,200.

-- BERNAMA

NER HS AO