



FOUNDATION LAUNCH: Dr Mahathir inserting an icon into a sculpture to signify his 22 years as Malaysia's fourth prime minister with Abdullah (left) and Azman looking on. The sculpture is specially designed by Raja Azhar Idris for the launch of the Perdana Leadership Foundation in Putrajaya yesterday.

An institution to honour past leaders

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi paid tribute to his predecessors, saying that he feels blessed to have served under each of the four former prime ministers.

"From each of them, I have humbly learned the qualities of good leadership, accountability, justice, integrity, patience and courage in the face of adversity," he said.

Malaysians must understand and study the successes and ideas of these leaders and take them as a source of inspiration, he said when launching the Perdana Leadership Foundation, set up in honour of the nation's past prime ministers, here yesterday.

"We are fortunate that the visions and policies of Malaysia's successive prime ministers had met the needs of

their time and shaped the overriding priorities of the country.

"Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra will forever be loved and remembered as our *Bapa Kemerdekaan* (Father of Independence).

"Tun Abdul Razak Hussein will be remembered as our *Bapa Pembangunan* (Father of Development).

"Tun Hussein Onn is remembered as our *Bapa Perpaduan* (Father of Solidarity) and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is, of course, well-known to us as *Bapa Pemodenan* (Father of Modernisation)."

Abdullah said the stories of what these leaders had faced and overcome, as well as their visions, would be valuable lessons to Malaysia in charting its own destiny.

The foundation, which he described as "an institutional memory of the country's premier leadership", offers access to a vast collection of speeches, documents, books and audio visual materials, affording a glimpse into Malaysia's history of nation-building.

The chairman of the foundation's board of trustees, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, said it was set up to create a thriving research and learning institution dedicated to the study of Malaysian leadership and nation-building.

Present at the event were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Dr Mahathir, who is the foundation's honorary president, Cabinet ministers and family members of the past leaders.