

02/12/1998

Abdullah: Sabah's ties with KL better with BN in control

TUARAN, Tues. - Sabah's relations with the Federal Government have improved tremendously since the Barisan Nasional took power from Parti Bersatu Sabah in 1994, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Speaking at a meet-the-people session here last night, Abdullah said the improved relations had resulted in better State-Federal dialogue. More development projects had been approved and implemented.

It was most regrettable that PBS had made an issue of Umno and State leaders always referring to Kuala Lumpur when making decisions.

"The PBS is a State-based party. It often made decisions without considering the bigger picture and this resulted in deteriorating State-Federal relations when it was in power."

Unlike the PBS, Umno, the backbone of the State BN Government, was a national party and on matters of policy, State and Federal leaders always had consultations.

Three State Umno leaders - Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam, Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Shafie Apdal and former Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said - sit in the powerful policy-making Umno supreme council.

Abdullah also said all State-based parties, representing Sabah's main ethnic groups, were in the BN and sat in the BN supreme council headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah advised the people of Sabah not to be taken in by attacks on relations between State and Federal leaders.

"It is bad State-Federal relations caused by the PBS that many development projects could not take off during their rule."

The present system has served Sabah well and people should ensure a BN victory in the State election.

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