

20/06/1999

Abdullah: List is to clear doubts about cronyism issue

THE display of a list of recipients of government privatised projects and shares at the Umno general assembly is another effort to clear doubts about the issue on cronyism, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"We are being transparent. In the past, a lot of speculation had been made on the awarding of contracts. Some have accused that contracts were given by the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and Tun Daim Zainuddin (the First Finance Minister) to their friends.

"The list is a proof. The people can judge for themselves. This is what is meant by transparency," he said.

To a question that some of the companies were linked to former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he said: "Look at it yourself. I don't want to make interpretation. You can make your own interpretation."

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said: "This proves the distribution of wealth is for all and not monopolised by certain groups."

Najib, who is also Education Minister, said the list was useful for Umno members who sought the latest information on the allocation of government projects and shares.

"Quite a number of those who were close to former Umno deputy president Anwar Ibrahim had obtained benefits from government allocations."

Umno information chief Datuk Dr Yusoff Noor said the list would clear any doubts about the integrity of Umno leaders.

"There's no need for a statement. It is transparent," he said, adding the list would be distributed to all Umno divisions and branches.

Daim confirmed the list came from the Finance Ministry.

(END)