

10 JAN 1999

Abdullah-Pledge

ABDULLAH PLEDGES NOT TO DISAPPOINT THE PEOPLE

KEPALA BATAS, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will take office as Deputy Prime Minister tomorrow, today pledged not to disappoint the people who have placed their hopes in him.

"God willing, I hope I will not disappoint the people...I will discharge my duties to the best of my ability," Abdullah, who has also been named Home Minister, told a news conference after presenting Hari Raya Aidilfitri aid to the poor in Pengkalan Bungor, near here.

Earlier, he presented similar aid to poor residents of Bakar Kapur and Bakau Tua.

Abdullah said he was happy and moved by the people's support and the statements of the Umno and communal leaders.

"To me, what they have expressed is the hope that I will discharge my duties well.

"God willing, this is a promise to myself and a promise I gave to the Umno supreme council when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced my appointment as deputy prime minister," he said.

He also reiterated his pledge to work hard and with full dedication, saying that he believed that there was a lot to be done.

He would meet the prime minister to discuss what he had to do, like the possibility of chairing certain committees, he added.

On measures he would implement at the Home Ministry, he said he would have to be briefed by the various departments before making any statements as the ministry was a big one.

In his speech, he advised those who could afford it to continue to donate to the less fortunate despite the economic slowdown so that Malaysians could become a caring society.

-- BERNAMA

AHM JK