

11/01/1999

Abdullah: I'll do my best and consider all views

Marina Emmanuel

PENANG, Sun. - Newly-appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today promised to do his best and consider the views of all parties on matters related to his duties.

He said he was happy with the support of Umno and community leaders over his appointments, as expressed in the media.

God willing, he said, he would not disappoint the people but would try to meet their expectations.

"This is the promise I made to myself and to the Umno supreme council members after (party president and) Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad appointed me on Friday," he said after presenting Hari Raya aid to 450 people in Penaga.

Abdullah, who is also Kepala Batas MP, said he would meet Dr Mahathir soon to discuss and seek the Prime Minister's advice on his new responsibilities.

Asked on statements by various parties that his appointment as Home Minister would restore public confidence in the integrity of government institutions, he said:

"At this point, I have no specific comment on what I plan to do at the Home Ministry.

"It is a ministry with many departments such as the police, immigration and (national) registration under its purview. I would need to be briefed first on the operations of the entire set-up."

Meanwhile, when presenting cash, food and clothing to the needy at the Bakar Kapur community hall in Penaga, Abdullah spoke on the need to preserve the peace.

(END)