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DPM: Power-sharing key to nation's progress

THE willingness to share political power has made Malaysia what it is today - a progressive developing country respected by the international community, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. He said such a concept is the legacy of the first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, and it has proven to be successful in bringing peace and harmony to the country.

"Racial cooperation was the main agenda in the early days. Leaders led by example, working well with others from different races and willing to share power," he said at the launch of a CD album of 10 patriotic songs in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

The album titled "Balada Seorang Pejuang" (Ballad of A Fighter), is produced and distributed by the National Broadcasters' Association. It is a compilation of works by well-known composers, lyricists and singers. Abdullah said the distribution of power among the various races in the country has helped promote a strong sense of cooperation among them, allowing nation-building to run smoothly.

"Malaysia is now a respected country. Its views and contributions to world peace and development are highly recognised. We should be proud of what we have achieved," he added.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the country has achieved much in less than half a century, putting itself on par with many developed nations. Abdullah also said Malaysia is lucky to have Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as its leader because he is patriotic and has a vision to further develop the country.

"We have a man (Dr Mahathir) who wants Malaysia to be a developed country, highly respected by other nations and the rakyat prosper from the opportunities available in the country," he added.

Abdullah said the production and distribution of the album is timely and it should help to instill patriotism among Malaysians.

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