

01 JUL 1999

UNITY, KEY TO NATIONAL PROGRESS, SAYS ABDULLAH

BUKIT MERTAJAM, July 1 (Bernama) -- The people's readiness to be with the country's leaders and the government is the key to national progress, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Badawi today.

He said the country could only move forward if the people gave importance to peace and harmony.

Speaking at a leader-with-the-people gathering attended by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Sekolah Menengah Guar Perahu here, Abdullah said the people would also have the opportunity to lead a comfortable life if they maintained existing harmony.

Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, in his speech, said the people were never afraid of foreign power because they have leaders with vision.

He said the people gave their undivided support to Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister because they had confidence in him to steer the country to greater success in the new millennium.

Some 15,000 people braved strong winds and rains to hear the speech by the Prime Minister.

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