

# Abdullah says he's ready to shoulder any duty

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**SHAH ALAM, Sun:** Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today he is ready to shoulder any duty delegated to him by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He does not **foresee** any problem and will accept any duty delegated to him.

Mahathir's decision to delegate official duties to him, he said, reflects the Prime Minister's confidence in his ability to carry out the heavy responsibilities.

"I'm very pleased and honoured by his trust in me to do the job well, and I accept whatever duties given to me,"

## DPM pleased and honoured by Mahathir's trust in him

he told reporters after giving away prizes to winners in the Gamuda-Kota Permai media golf challenge 2000 at the Kota Permai Golf Club here.

Asked if he is ready to shoulder the heavy responsibilities should Mahathir retire from office, Abdullah said to let the matter be.

"However, I really appreciate the way Mahathir requested the party members to give their full support to me as his deputy," he added.

Abdullah described the approach by Mahathir to go to

the ground and meet Umno members at the grassroots level as something positive.

In doing so, Mahathir would be able to brief members directly on various matters, he said. "I appreciate the Prime Minister's desire and am very happy because during these meetings there are bound to be dialogues on specific matters."

Abdullah also said the 54th Umno general assembly which ended yesterday was a success and the election process also went very well de-

spite the many criticisms from members.

The criticisms were nothing extraordinary or unusual, he said. "But, it's something for us to think about and to consider the views of the delegates for the good of the party."

What is important now was to implement the message conveyed by the party president in his winding-up speech so that party activities are carried out effectively especially when facing the next general election, he said.

On the new line-up of state Wanita chiefs with eight new appointments, Abdullah said he has yet to verify the matter with Umno Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.