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`I'm willing to accept any task'

Sarban Singh

SHAH ALAM, Sun. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today thanked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for deciding to hand over some official duties to him.

He said he would carry out these duties wholeheartedly and would not let the Prime Minister down.

"I am willing to accept any task from the Prime Minister ... I am very happy that he has full confidence in me," he said.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after handing over prizes to the winners of the Gamuda-Kota Permai Media Golf Challenge tournament near here.

He said by delegating some work to others, Dr Mahathir will be able to meet Umno and other Barisan Nasional leaders in the State, divisions and branches more often.

"I fully understand that the Prime Minister decided to delegate some of his work to me as this would enable him to spend more time to explain issues to the people.

"To me, this is an excellent approach as the people, especially those in the villages, will be able to understand issues better ... it will also allow them to have dialogues with the Prime Minister," he said.

Abdullah said he was also thankful to the party president for urging members to give him their full support.

Asked his assessment of the recently concluded Umno general assembly, Abdullah said it went on smoothly as expected.

Abdullah said although some delegates had criticised the leadership during the debate on the presidential address, this was not something that had never happened before.

"Although we had some delegates criticising the leadership, this is not strange. They made some very good suggestions which could benefit the party," he said.

Abdullah said the delegates had also thrown their full support behind Dr Mahathir and this was evident from the many rounds of applause received by the Prime Minister during his winding-up address.

"The delegates have given the president their full backing. With this, we will be able to continue to carry out our party activities effectively," he said.

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