

# PM spoke to

# Abdullah

STAR  
over 22 NOV 2002

## vacant posts

KEPALA BATAS: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday the Prime Minister had twice informed him of his intention to fill the post of Second Finance Minister and other vacancies in the Cabinet.

"Sometime ago, he (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) informed me about his intention but said he had yet to find the right candidate.

"And recently, he told me that he had made a decision and I agreed. He told me of his decision not only to fill the Second Finance Minister's post but also other vacancies in the Cabinet," he said after breaking fast with about 1,000 community leaders from Kedah, Perlis and Penang at the Permatang Manggis surau here yesterday.

Also present at the gathering were Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya, Penang State Legislative Assembly Speaker Datuk Yahaya Abdul Hamid, several Kedah state executive councillors as well as assemblymen from Perlis.

Abdullah was asked to comment on a report indicating that the Prime Minister did not consult anyone including himself (Abdullah) on the appointment of Rompin MP Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis as Second Finance Minister as well the promotion of Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor and Datuk Zainuddin Maidin to higher posts.

Abdullah replied:

"Why is it so important to ask that question? It is the prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint anyone."