

I'll be around for Abdullah, says Dr M

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KAMPAR: The prime minister has promised he will continue to support and be on hand to help his successor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi even after he steps down.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he would help the deputy prime minister ensure the success of the government's development plans and

their implementation.

He also promised to remain as Umno and Barisan Nasional member.

"Maybe then, I would have more time to help out," he said in his speech at the ground-breaking ceremony of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

He was responding to Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali's speech earlier.

Tajol had urged Mahathir to remain active in Umno

and BN as the nation still needs his contributions.

Mahathir also paid tribute to the Chinese community for their fervent pursuit of education and knowledge.

"This is the secret of the Chinese community's success. They never stop chasing knowledge."

He urged the Chinese community to use its knowledge and skills to serve the country.

"I am confident the Chinese will ensure unity in their community as well as

with the other races so that we can continue to run the country together and enjoy our success together," Mahathir said to the 10,000 people at the site of UTAR's main campus.

He said the government will help support UTAR. In return, he hoped graduates of the university will use their expertise to help develop the country.

Members of the various BN component parties were also present at the ceremony.