

'Unite or lose all'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malays should rally to prevent the Umno-led government from being displaced by another grouping of parties.

The Umno deputy president said should the party suffer major reverses it could lead to a crisis and the big losers would be the Malays who still lack the resilience, skills and knowledge in various fields to survive in the new globalised environment.

"Implementing an effective formula for power-sharing is not something that we can gamble with try experimenting," he said when opening simultaneously the annual assemblies of Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri at the PWTC last night.

The movements' annual assemblies precede the three-day 57th Umno general assembly which begins tomorrow.

In his address themed "*Managing Success*", Abdullah said that Umno's political power must be preserved and party members must ensure that it remains strong and united.

"Do not let your guard down just because the Malays dominate the government and the civil service. Do not for a moment think that Malay political power will last forever," he said.

Abdullah said that he is worried that success has spoilt and undermined the mindset of the Malays to the extent that they now think they are secure and could do just about anything they want.

He said party president Datuk

Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad often reminded the Malays to prioritise unity and not to be involved in activities that can undermine the party strength.

He warned that if the Malays do not heed his advice and put an end to their divisive activities

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one day, the power that Umno has and with it the power that the Malays benefit from, would be forever gone.

Abdullah said that he fully understands Mahathir's concerns that the Malays today do not prioritise unity, allowing anything to divide them like jostling for position in the party, unfounded accusations against the leadership, disappointment or not receiving business opportunities

and incitement by opposition parties

He reminded Umno members not to forget that Umno was formed to unite the Malays and to safeguard and champion their interests.

He said it is not an arena for members to scramble for positions at any cost including vote-buying.

"A candidate who tries to influence delegates to sell their soul has himself already sold his soul and dignity," he said.

To ensure Umno's survival, Abdullah said that party members must make the people to love the party and not to be contemptuous of it.

He called on members to learn a lesson from the eclipse of such parties as India's Congress Party, Taiwan's Kuomintang Nationalist Party and Japan's Liberal Democratic Party