

# Pak Lah: Strength lies in coalition

STAR 21 SEP 2003

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has urged the Barisan Nasional component parties to join him in ensuring that the coalition Government achieves greater success in the future.

Speaking at a rally here to mark 50 years of power-sharing among the multi-racial parties at Stadium Merdeka yesterday, Abdullah said he would continue to carry out the development agenda, which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had often described as "not completed yet".

He also said the belief in the power-sharing concept and the desire to continue this concept was the formula of Malaysia's success.

The formula, he said, was the catalyst for the country's revival after Independence.

Through this concept, he said, the country was able to experience extraordinary successes and he credited this to the past prime ministers and leaders who were committed to power-sharing.

He also said the concept of power-sharing ensured no one was sidelined in decisions made by the Government.

"The leaders have left us but now we have Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who continues this concept whereby all policies and decisions are made after taking into consideration views of all the component parties, no matter how small they are.

"Smaller parties are given as much consideration as the bigger ones and

it is collective responsibility in the Cabinet," he said.

Abdullah also said Barisan was the symbol of a successful practice of power sharing, whereby the coalition consisted of political parties that represented the various races and religion in the country.

He said the Barisan Government's

tremendous success, since it started as Perikatan, in making Malaysia among the most developed countries was possible as it had support from the people.

"That is why the power-sharing concept is practised until now," he said.

In his tribute to Dr Mahathir,

Abdullah said one of his greatest successes was in instilling in the people the confidence that with hard work they could achieve anything they wanted.

"The magic word now is *Malaysia Boleh* and Barisan is the catalyst to this spirit in ensuring the country's development," he said.