

Growth will continue, says Pak Lah

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KEPALA BATAS: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has promised to continue the country's development in achieving Vision 2020 and in going beyond that goal.

Praising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his outstanding contributions to the country, he said development must go on from one generation to another and from one leader to another.

"There is no full stop to development. We must continue our efforts to achieve Vision 2020 and beyond," Abdullah who is taking over from Dr Mahathir next week, said when opening a consumer leadership seminar and the 29th AGM of the Peninsular

Malaysia Association of Penghulu and Penggawa at Equatorial Hotel here yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's greatest success was in instilling confidence in Malaysians.

Earlier Abdullah said he was confident the leadership transition would progress smoothly.

He said he had no control or influence over any parties projecting their personal sentiments regarding the power transition.

"But I do not foresee any problem," he said.

Abdullah said leaders must continue their work as usual and work towards enhancing their performance.

"What is important is that we perform well and better," he said, after opening Masjid Jami'ul Jalal Pajak Song here yesterday.

He said several veteran Barisan Nasional leaders had told him that they would voluntarily withdraw from contesting any seats during the upcoming general election.

Last Wednesday Dr Mahathir had said that his successor would project an image of a strong and respected leader when he took over the top post.

Dr Mahathir had said that the international communities had not seen Abdullah's true strength because his deputy had yet to be a Prime Minister.