

PM: Work as a team

[SUN] - 3 NOV 2003

Listen to the coach and we'll succeed, Abdullah tells nation

by **Regina William**
and **A. Sangeetha**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

it for his own interest or for fame and glory but for the advancement and well-being of the nation.

Stressing that teamwork between the people and government was of utmost importance, Abdullah likened his responsibilities to those of managing a football team.

"All of us have to work together just like a football team, where there is a goalkeeper, strikers, forwards and others as not everybody can play the same role to keep the team in place.

"Even if you wish to strike, you should never "kick" your teammates in your fervour to score a goal."

"This is exactly how we should work, hand-in-hand and not against one another as many hands make light work.

"If you want to emerge as a winning team, you should always listen to the coach, as he knows what's best for the team."

"In the government, we work with the same principle, as we are all in the same team and we work with sincerity for the people and the country," he said.

SUNGAI PETANI: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday expressed confidence that he will be able to carry out the arduous and challenging task of leading the country with the support and cooperation of the people.

Abdullah said the fact that he had become prime minister was not important but that he should have the ability and determination to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him justly, sincerely and effectively.

"This, God willing, I will be able to do with the support of everyone in the country," Abdullah told the huge crowd which had turned up at Padang Bandaran Kuala Ketil to welcome him as Prime Minister.

This was his first working visit to Kedah during which he handed over seedlings, fertilisers, fish fry and livestock to those affected by the recent floods which hit Kedah and Penang.

He said it was *takdir* (fate) that he should lead the country but he was not going to do

I was nervous, says Pak Lah

from **FRONT PAGE**

Also present were Kedah Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Agriculture Minister Datuk Dr Effendi Norwawi, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Abdullah, who took over as the country's fifth prime minister on Friday from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who led the nation for 22 years, also shared what went through his mind when he was about to be sworn in.

"I was nervous and two things went through my mind. Firstly, I prayed that all would go well during the ceremony.

"Secondly, I prayed that I would be given good health, faith and guidance by God to carry out my duties well for the people, country, race and religion," he said.

More than 10,000 people gave him a rousing welcome at Padang Bandaran Kuala Ketil.

Banners supplied by the various Barisan Nasional component parties hung from every space available, congratulating Abdullah and pledging support for him.

[SUN] - 3 NOV 2003

turn to **PAGE 2**