

31 OCT 2003

CHINA SENDS WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- The Government of the People's Republic of China today sent its warmest congratulations and best wishes to the new Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Its Prime Minister, Wen Jiabao, said that being a friendly neighbour, China wished to express its sincere admiration and is convinced that Malaysia would definitely accomplish further success under Abdullah's leadership.

He said, in a statement today, that both countries enjoyed profound traditional friendship and shared common interests extensively.

"The bilateral relations now are at its best and the recent visit to China by Datuk Seri Abdullah is of great significance in the development of bilateral relations as it inherits the past and ushers in the future," he added.

He said with Abdullah's appointment as the fifth Prime Minister, China was ready together with Malaysia to open a new and bright era in the bilateral relations.

"May Malaysia enjoy prosperity and its people well-being and Datuk Seri Abdullah enjoy good health and achieve success," he said.

Jiabao also said that under the leadership of former Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and the concerted efforts of the Malaysian people, Malaysia had, over the years, broken a new path of modernisation suitable to its own conditions and thus set a successful model for the developing countries.

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