

03 NOV 2003

Sarawak-PM

S'WAK RURUM KELABIT HAILS NEW PM

KUCHING, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Rurum Kelabit National Association (SRKNA) today welcomed the appointment of the nation's fifth prime minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Its deputy president, Dr Rolland Dom Mattu, told Bernama that the Kelabit community had full confidence in the new leader's abilities and hoped he would give priority to improving education and infrastructure facilities to the rural areas for balanced development.

"A good education policy will enable Abdullah to continue working towards realising Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision of making Malaysia a developed nation by 2020," he said.

He is confident that Abdullah will continue to push the country's education sector to greater heights by injecting new ideas so that Malaysia can compete and keep abreast with other countries.

To Dr Mahathir, Dr Rolland who is also Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) vice-president, said that although the Kelabit was a minority race, the community was deeply indebted to the former prime minister for having improved the community's socio-economic status during his tenure.

-- BERNAMA

FLL JK