

31 OCT 2003

Abdullah-Mother

ABDULLAH'S MOTHER GRATEFUL TO GOD ON HER SON'S SWEARING-IN AS PM

KEPALA BATAS, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Kailan Hassan, the mother of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, is grateful to God as her eldest child was sworn-in as Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister today.

She followed the swearing-in ceremony in the television at her house in Jalan Perak, here, accompanied by relatives and friends who shared the historic moment.

Kailan was cool and calm and did not show any emotions when Abdullah took the oath of office and oath of secrecy before the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalulail, at Istana Negara.

Asked how she felt about her son becoming the Prime Minister, Kailan, resting her hands on her chest, calmly said: "I'm touched and grateful to God.

"I'm also thankful to (Tun) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad)," she said after watching the live telecast of the swearing-in ceremony.

She hoped Abdullah would shoulder the trust and responsibilities entrusted upon him well and would continue to remain humble.

Describing Abdullah's appointment as God's will, she said: "Everything is up to God. We should not be carried away by post."

Accompanying the 78-year-old Kailan watching the live telecast were Abdullah's sister-in-law Khairon Bilal, a primary school teacher, and Abdullah's cousin Mohamad Kamal Bilal, a businessman.

As a mother, Kailan said she was happy that her son was given the trust to lead the country, more so she never expected Abdullah to become Prime Minister.

"It never crossed my mind Abdullah will become Prime Minister," she said.

Asked on the preparations being made for Abdullah who would visit her tomorrow to receive her blessings and break the fast with her, Kailan said she only made the usual preparations.

She said she would ask Khairon Bilal to prepare Abdullah's favourite dishes -- porridge and dates.

"I'm old, let Khairon make the porridge and the food he likes.

"As usual, Abdullah will kiss my hand once he arrives at the house before savouring the food," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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