

# PM pledges to wipe out graft

STAR - 2 JUN 2005

## No let-up in war against corruption

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Government is committed to reducing corruption in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah, who is Umno president, said the party was also serious in wanting to get rid of the scourge of money politics.

He said he accepted the recent comments by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a reminder "from a former prime minister who, in his time, also fought against corruption."

"So, this is a continuation from that and we are giving it due attention," Abdullah said after chairing a supreme council meeting yesterday.

He spelt out in great length the steps he had taken as prime minister and Umno president to fight and prevent corruption, including setting up the Royal

Commission of Police and the Integrity Institute of Malaysia.

Recently, Dr Mahathir had voiced his fears that corruption was becoming more serious in the country and also expressed concern on the import of many foreign cars into the country to the detriment of Proton, the national car.

The former prime minister had also asked that the names of those given approved permits (APs) to import vehicles be disclosed.

But on Tuesday, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz shot this down and said the Government found it inappropriate to disclose the names.

When asked about this, Abdullah said he agreed with Rafidah.

Asked why the AP list should

remain confidential, Abdullah said: "There's no need to talk about this at length. The minister (Rafidah) is overseas and we will discuss this when she returns."

Abdullah also said he had spoken about the Proton at the Cabinet meeting yesterday and pointed out that there were other national cars like Inokom and Perodua which also produced cars of similar capacity and similar pricing which competed with the first national car.

He said the Government recognised that Proton needed assistance and protection to a certain extent but hoped that the company itself would be more active in selling the car overseas.

"We have to be competitive and we will be competitive," he said, adding that Proton needed to work hard.