

10 FEB 2004
Abdullah-Success
IT IS NOT EASY TO MANAGE SUCCESS - ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that it is not easy for him to manage the success that he inherits from his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Abdullah said when he first took office as the fifth Prime Minister of Malaysia, he noted that the greatest challenge that he would face was to manage and build upon the success that Dr Mahathir had left behind.

"I did not inherit a country in turmoil. I did not inherit war, deprivation or crises. Instead, when Tun Dr Mahathir handed over the duties of governance, he made sure that I inherited success," he said in his speech at the Cambridge Foundation Fund Raising Dinner, here tonight.

He said managing the success was not easy and in a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive world, Malaysia needed to work hard to survive and stay ahead.

"There are no free lunches for us. The global mantra is compete or perish, and we must rise to this challenge," he said.

He added that the people could choose to be content with what they had, but only to find that success which was not managed and built upon, was a success that was fleeting and momentary.

On the agenda which he had outlined, Abdullah said he was happy that it had been accepted by the people.

"People have responded well to some of my ideas and I will use their comments to refine my agenda further, especially in its implementation," he said.

With firm conviction, Abdullah said his agenda was not a mere lip service nor electioneering.

"The agenda that I have set out is something that I want to see done and not just something that sounds nice in a speech to elicit applause," he said.

He said his first hundred days in office was his statement of

intent.

"I am aware that there are now high expectations from my administration. This is a far cry from the very low expectations that people had before I took office," he said.

He said what he had set out to do was to bring the government back to the people.

"A government that serves the rakyat better, empowers people," he said.

Abdullah said his invitation to work with him, empowered the people.

"Empower this government to empower you. Believe in this leadership that believes you. Work with me, to work with you," he said.

-- BERNAMA

NN HM AO