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Abdullah-Responsibilities

RESPONSIBILITIES AS PM IS TREMENDOUSLY HEAVY, SAYS ABDULLAH

ALOR STAR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today inheriting a successful leadership has made his responsibilities as Prime Minister tremendously heavy as he has to ensure that all decisions made are correct.

"I have been given a tremendous task, it's not easy to carry out," he said at a meeting with state and federal government officers, here.

Abdullah, who became Prime Minister on Oct 31, last year, following Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's retirement, said that upon assuming the post he realised how difficult it was to make decisions because any error in judgement would cause sufferings to the people.

"Before becoming Prime Minister, I did not really feel it although I was working closely with Dr mahathir. Now, even for the most difficult matter, I have to decide myself, there's no one else, only me.

"It's certainly lonely at the top," he said.

Abdullah said he realised that the responsibilities placed on him as well as the people's expectation were great because Dr Mahathir had performed extremely well in bringing Malaysia towards achieving a developed nation's status.

In jest, he said: "When I took over, some people had expressed doubts and some had commented `Dr Mahathir's shoes are very big, can you wear them?' and I merely replied `I don't know how big his shoes are, but I have my (own) shoes'."

At a press conference later, when asked whether he could convince the people in implementing national programmes within the four months since assuming the premiership, he said had had a time frame to do it.

"I'm not the only one doing it, everybody is doing it, the rest are helping," he said.

He believed that all the government machinery and Barisan Nasional were together with him in ensuring that all development for the people

could be
implemented effectively.

"I know there are some political writers who say I am alone,
they are
not very sure whether the party is with me or not...I believe the
party is
with me," he said.

This had been proven when the philosophy adopted, that is, 'work
with
me and not for me' had been well received at all levels including
Umno and
BN leaders.

"Every day I read the newspapers to see what is being said by
Umno and
BN leaders, there are signs indicating that we all understand the
strategy
and the objectives to be achieved," he added.

-- BERNAMA
SN MAN AO