

29/06/2003

Abdullah: Power transition will be smooth

BAHAU, Sat. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said the power transition in October will be smooth and orderly.

He advised the people not to listen to rumours that the country would be thrown into turmoil once Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down.

Speaking at a "meet-the-people" session at Felda Raja Alias, he said rumours of in-fighting in Umno and the economy being affected as a result were baseless.

He said Umno realised the importance of a stable political environment for the country to progress.

This, he said, was reflected at the recent Umno general assembly when senior leaders pledged to work to ensure the party remained strong.

"Umno is a responsible party, concerned with ensuring the people a peaceful life in a progressive and developed country," he told a 3,000-strong crowd.

Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, Entrepreneur Development Deputy Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus and Felda chairman Tan Sri Dr Yusof Noor.

Abdullah said the country was successful because the Government received strong support from the people.

He also urged Felda settlers to focus on agriculture-based small- and medium-scale industries instead of depending solely on small-scale enterprises.

"We want these people to use their skills to increase their income," he said, adding that Felda settlements held a vast potential for development.