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Abdullah expresses his gratitude to Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will be sworn in as the country's fifth Prime Minister tomorrow, expressed his gratitude to outgoing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, saying his sacrifices were invaluable and his leadership exemplary.

On behalf of the Umno supreme council, Abdullah said Umno should continue to struggle for continued unity among the people and for development not only for the Malays, but for all Malaysians.

"I reiterated to Dr Mahathir that our political approach which has been effective all this while will continue to be adopted.

"I told him that though he (Dr Mahathir) has retired, we will continue his struggle and God willing be successful," he said after attending the last Umno supreme council meeting chaired by Dr Mahathir at the Umno headquarters here.

Dr Mahathir had earlier called on all supreme council members to support Abdullah and ensure that the party functioned well.

"All Umno supreme council members wish Dr Mahathir a happy retirement and hope he will enjoy good health and well being," added Abdullah.