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DPM: We're willing to listen to views of young professionals

Rosli Zakaria

KUALA TERENGGANU, Wed. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said tonight that the Government was prepared to listen to young professionals in efforts to bring the country's development and progress to greater heights.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the Government's positive approach reflected its determination to see the younger generation play effective and important roles in nation building.

He said the Government was also prepared to make adjustments if and when necessary to develop the country for the people's benefit.

"We want to showcase Malaysia as a progressive and tolerant Islamic nation and the image of the Muslims enhanced," he said at a dinner organised by the Pergerakan Professional Muda, attended by more than 1,000 young professionals.

Towards this end, Abdullah called on the younger generation to equip themselves with knowledge in the various fields.

He said the Government would do its utmost to develop the country, but efforts towards this would take time and must be done with wisdom.

"I want to see the younger generation inherit a Government that is successful."

He pledged to strive for the interests of the country and the people when he becomes the Prime Minister after Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down next month.

"We have to co-ordinate our energy to produce something significant for the nation."

He said the action of professionals in development would become a catalyst in nation building.

"That is why they must be more equipped, gather more knowledge and be willing to produce quality output."

Abdullah said he was confident with their contributions and commitment, the country could achieve the Vision 2020 objective of making the country a developed nation.

He reminded the young professionals of the increasing challenges and the competition they would have to face in the future.