

04/11/2003

PM: Work together for country

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi started work at his new office today with a call to the minister, deputy ministers and staff of the Prime Minister's Department to "work with me, not for me".

Speaking to more than 1,000 civil servants who had gathered to welcome the Prime Minister, he exhorted them to work together for "the sake of our race, religion and this beloved nation".

He had arrived at the main entrance foyer at 8am where he joined in the doa selamat.

The Prime Minister then clocked in via the biometrics scanner at the first floor entrance of the Perdana Putra complex at 8.10am.

Senior officials from the Prime Minister's Department, who had served former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, were present in full force to welcome and later guide Abdullah to his office on the fifth floor.

Dr Mahathir's principal private secretary, Datuk Badariah Arshad, showed Abdullah to his official seat at the administrative capital.

The Prime Minister, who is also Home Minister, was accompanied by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman.

Donning a black suit and appearing cheerful, Abdullah finally walked to the Prime Minister's table and sat in the seat that he inherited from Dr Mahathir.

Abdullah, who will be celebrating his 64th birthday on Nov 26, took his oath as Prime Minister before Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin at the Istana Negara last Friday.