

31/10/2003

Umno leaders told to emulate Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today called on party leaders to follow the footsteps of outgoing president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who was bold and courageous in facing all kinds of challenges.

He said Dr Mahathir, with his courageous and credible leadership, had succeeded in making Umno a progressive and viable party.

Abdullah, who will be sworn in as the country's fifth Prime Minister tomorrow, called on all division heads, Youth, Wanita and Puteri leaders to emulate Dr Mahathir's leadership style.

He said Umno members should concentrate on efforts to unite all the groups so that nobody would feel left out and squabble with one another.

"What is important is that Umno must remain united, strong and vibrant so that we will continue to enjoy success," he said in his speech at the breaking of fast with Umno members.

Abdullah also conveyed his sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr Mahathir for his immense contributions to the party, especially to the Malays, and for turning Malaysia into a progressive and prosperous nation.

In one of his first official functions as Prime Minister, Abdullah will on Sunday announce in Alor Star aid for Kedah farmers and livestock breeders who suffered losses in the recent floods.

A government official said Abdullah would also hand out padi seeds to farmers. Abdullah will be accompanied by Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Effendi Norwawi.