

Pak Lah makes blog debut with 'don't spook' post
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Former prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made his blog debut today, advising against using the politics of fear to foster unity.

He warned that the result of such a move could be disastrous.

Abdullah, who helmed the nation from 2003 to 2009, said Malaysians should learn from the May 13th tragedy.

"However, we should not frequently bring up the (May 13) incident. We must always look forward," he said in his posting titled "The meaning of Independence and Unity."

The country's fifth prime minister said he was called to blog on the special occasion of the anniversary of Malaysia's formation to share his experience.

Unfortunately, Abdullah said the focus now is no longer on the nation's diversity but differences in the form of political thinking, race, religion, social status, which have resulted in quarrels.

"Tolerance and respect have declined. The freedom to express which we have now is used to express hatred in the social media and internet.

"I am saddened by what is happening in our beloved country although there are efforts to foster unity among the races," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysians must be united when there are events or celebrating victories, and not only during calamities.

"Unity must prevail in all our hearts and it should not be seasonal. The unity of all races is important but it should not be built on creating fear of the people.

"Differing opinions are common, more so in a country that practices democracy. Despite the differing opinions and political thinking, we should not quarrel among ourselves," he added.

As humans, Abdullah said, leaders too make mistakes.

"If there is mistake then give advise and comment if needed but do not run him down as this would not bring any benefit," he said.

Abdullah said he recognises there are many issues plaguing Malaysians and admitted not

having all the answers.

"However, I would like to remind that this is our country and we should protect this blessing and peace that God gave us all," he added.

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