



THANK YOU: Abdullah is all smiles after being given a portrait of him and his wife Endon by PPP president Datuk M. Kayveas at PWTC yesterday.

PM: Change lifestyle to spend less

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today advised Malaysians to be thrifty to cushion the impact of escalating oil prices on prices of goods and services.

He said the people must learn to make adjustments in their budget and, if necessary, change their lifestyle.

"We have to make adjustments in our spending and avoid wastage," he said at the opening of the 52nd annual general assembly of the People's Progressive Party at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians generally tend to overdo things, leading to wastage of food, power, water and others.

Abdullah gave some advice on spending during festive seasons, especially during the forthcoming Deepavali and Hari Maya Puasa

celebrations.

"When there are celebrations, make sure we do not over-spend on feasts," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Abdullah said traders should not automatically increase prices because of the stronger purchasing power of civil servants who benefited from the 2006 Budget.

They should maintain their prices and enjoy higher profits from increased sales.

On complaints that employees in the private sector had been left out in the Budget 2006, he said they would stand to benefit if their employers made higher profits because of the incentives provided.

"I do not want to direct the private sector (to pay bonus and allowances).

"The private sector is not stingy. In fact, it is the practice of the private sector to give bonuses to their employees, not the Government."

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