

# Pak Lah taking his personal loss calmly

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was a picture of calm as thousands of people thronged Seri Perdana yesterday to pay their last respects to his late wife Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood.

Dressed in a dark blue *baju Melayu*, the Prime Minister greeted the people from all walks of life who came up to him to offer their condolences and sympathies with his trade-

mark "*Apa khabari!*"

On several occasions, he even spared a smile for members of the press covering the funeral.

When someone asked him how he was coping with his loss, Abdullah enigmatically replied: "*We see-lah.*"

The Prime Minister even had to hold back his own grieving to console some of the people who broke down in

tears upon seeing him, patting them on their back and holding their hands.

"I only had time to shake his hand," said Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop. "Because of his strong faith in Allah, he could accept his wife's demise."

Whereas an aide to Abdullah confessed: "He looks so calm. I'm the one who broke down."

Unlike his children Kamalud-

din and Nori who seldom left their mother's side, Abdullah had to frequently leave the hall where the body was laid to greet Cabinet colleagues, close friends and dignitaries, including royalty.

Like his father, Kamaluddin looked calm, but Nori was openly weeping.

Kamaluddin said the whole family was by Endon's side when she passed away.



MY THANKS: Abdullah thanking those who turned up at Seri Perdana to offer their condolences while Kamaluddin (right), Nori and her husband Khairy Jamaluddin look on yesterday.