

Abdullah: I am not Mr 10% - not even 1%

**BY JACK WONG
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KUCHING: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants Malaysians to know that he is not "Mr 10%".

"This is not a minister of even 1%," said the Prime Minister, who declared that he had never asked for kickbacks in the awarding of government contracts.

"I have nothing for myself. I don't seek percentage from anybody who gets the job," he said when opening the Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party general assembly in Santubong, near here, yesterday.

There's no allegation. Nobody has said anything. I just mentioned it, in case anybody has some funny ideas."

Abdullah, who is Umno president and Barisan Nasional chief, said he worked hard not for personal gain but for the country's future, and called on all Malaysians to work together towards the same goal

"Let's not just think of ourselves. Think of others: There must be sacrifices."

"Abdullah said it was not easy to be Prime Minister, citing as examples the distribution of seats among component parties of the Barisan in the general election and allocation of Cabinet posts.

"You cannot satisfy everybody to the extent of giving all that they want. But we have learnt to give and take - nobody takes all, nobody loses all," he said.

The prime minister said he was a big believer in the Barisan's philosophy of consensus among the various races and religions in the country.

"It worked well under Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak (Hussein), Tun Hussein (Onn) and Tun Dr Mahathir (Mohamad). So far, it has Worked well with me," he said.

Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the state government planned to turn 1.2 million hectares of native customary rights (NCR) land into oil palm plantations, through joint ventures, by 2010.

"The joint venture model has been well-received and we have had many applications from NCR land owners to develop their land this way," he said, in a speech read out by Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan.