

Abdullah: Successful Malays must help the weak

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malays who are already successful must help to strengthen the economy of the community, especially of those who are weaker, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

This, he said, was a noble mission, likening the struggle to an economic *jihad* that must be embraced by the Malays.

"However, it needs a change in attitude and a whole new way of work approach and mindset," he said.

"Most importantly, the Malays must cooperate with each other," the Prime Minister told more than 3,000 people, when launching the Federation of Malay Economic Bodies (Gabem) here yesterday.

Abdullah said the sovereignty of the country would be meaningless if the Malays could not excel.

On the federation, he said: "This is not an anti-non-Malays movement.

"This is just our way to ensure that the Malays can become a true asset in the country instead of a liability."

Abdullah also warned that those who commit offences must be punished "irrespective of whether they are my friends or family members."

"Wrong is wrong and those who had transgressed must be punished," he said.

"If you want to serve justice, you cannot be selective," he said, telling the gathering that when he became Prime Minister three years ago, he was known as Mr Nice Guy.

"But, not anymore. Not after I had "fixed" a few people, including friends.

"Now Mr Nice Man is not nice at all."

He added that he had not regretted his actions.