

Mind what

There

won't

be

you

say

any restriction on delegates to bring up issues as long as they are not sensitive to other Barisan component parties"

KUALA LUMPUR: Be fair, just and careful, Do not hurt the feelings of component party members when raising issues.

This was the impassioned plea party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made to Umno members when he met delegates at a closed-door pre-council session yesterday.

He said they should be careful not to hurt the feelings of the Barisan Nasional compo-

nent party members when championing issues.

"There won't be any restriction on delegates to bring up issues as long as they are not sensitive to other Barisan component parties," Abdullah told reporters after the meeting at the PWTC here.

He said members must be very careful and remember that Umno was given the man-

>TURN TO PAGE 8

***Datuk Seri Abdullah
Ahmad Badawi***

Be fair when raising issues, members told

>FROM PAGE 1

date to lead the coalition by its members.

"I reminded all party members that they must take into account the views of other component parties when raising the issues. They must be fair and just in their comments.

"They must avoid adverse reactions from component party members that could damage racial harmony," he said, adding that all quarters must be aware each other's sensitivities.

Abdullah, who is also the Prime Minister, spoke on the importance of maintaining harmony among coalition members like a family unit, adding that this was the very recipe that had held the party together all these years.

At the same press conference, Abdullah also announced an additional RM600mil for development on top of the RM1.5bil allocation under the 9th Malaysia Plan announced in May, which had nearly been spent

"The funds are nearly depleted and we have identified other minor projects needed for the rural community," he added.

To a question, Abdullah warned party members not to underestimate him and take advantage of his soft approach, saying that "it is hard to be nice and patient"

"I think it was enough to remind the members not to test me and I think they understand what I meant when I said that" he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Abdullah gave guidance to members to always maintain unity and family ties within Umno.

He said that Abdullah also touched on a topic criticised heavily, which was the economic slowdown.

"He had said the RM600mil allocation should boost rural development and ensure employment for small contractors," he said.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussin, who spoke to reporters later, said each parliamentary constituency would be given RM3mil from the RM600mil.

He said this would rejuvenate the Class F contractors, adding that the allocation would be spent within six months upon disbursement.

The allocation was designed to help develop rural areas with minor infrastructure projects such as upgrading roads and bridges, Dr Awang Adek said.

Meanwhile, Abdullah also announced that an incentive of RM2 would be given for every new member recruited by Umno divisions throughout the country.