

PM: We're ready

'Final assault' in human capital development

KOTA KINABALU: Giving the analogy of climbing a mountain, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says that in human capital development efforts, Malaysia has arrived at the base camp and is ready for the final assault.

"Normally, the strong, steadfast and confident climbers will continue climbing. But in the case of Malaysia, we want all to make the leap to the peak of glory," said the Prime Minister.

He said this in a speech-after performing Maghrib prayers with government and community leaders here last night. Earlier, he broke fast and presented aid to 20 poor people.

Abdullah said the emphasis on human capital development was to enhance the country's level of achievement.

Education is not something new but we want to strengthen ourselves to be able to make a leap," he said.

A successful climb to the peak would enable the people to have confidence in their own capability, he said.

Abdullah said the confidence must be supported by spiritual strengths, which meant for Muslims to always be resigned to Allah's will after striving hard to achieve a goal.

"The higher you go, the more diffi-

cult it would be. It's like climbing Everest; if we look down, we feel fear, fearing that it'll be the end if we fall, with all the gusts and hurricanes and so on," he said.

Physical strength is a must to climb a mountain but to climb up the ladder of civilisation, the strength must come from knowledge, he said.

The prime minister said the current generation might not be able to reach that level but it could be realised by the next generation.

Therefore, the next generation must be better trained to be of higher quality, he said. - Bernama