

An enhanced lifestyle for all

Promise of affordable living by Abdullah

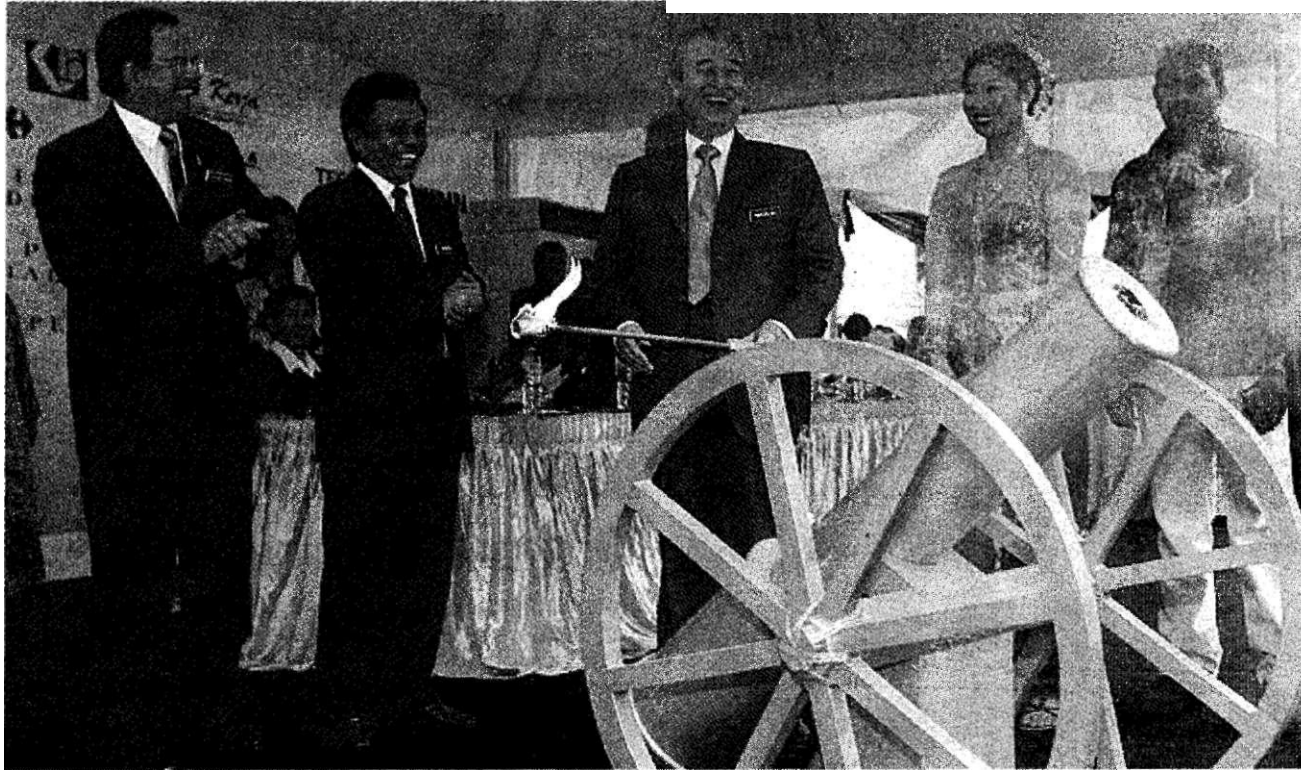
KUALA LUMPUR: Affordable food and clothes, homes, cars, education, medical treatment and even communication services - that is the promise to all Malaysians by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The ordinary people must be able to enjoy and afford these six items at a reasonable price and only then will there be a meaning to us striving to achieve developed nation status," Abdullah said in launching the National Consumer Day celebrations at Bukit Jalil here yesterday.

"Such a status is not only meant for those who have the means. A developed nation must be for all."

The Prime Minister in emphasizing his assurances made these comments on the six item:

• **FOOD and clothes:**
"There should be adequate supply of food and clothes



OFF WITH A BANC! Abdullah launching the National Consumer Day celebration in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal (second from left) and deputy Datuk S. Veerasingam.

which are reasonably priced."

• **Homes:**
"House prices cannot be too expensive as everyone should be given the opportunity to own affordable homes or rent them at affordable cost."

• **Cars:**
"Consumers should also be able to buy cars at reasonably low prices because it had become a necessity for most people today."

"Otherwise, public trans-

portation services should be of high quality and the cost should remain low."

• **Education:**
"It should be affordable so that it will not prevent the poor from improving their lot."

• **Medical treatment:**
"There must be cheap and quality drugs and riot expired ones. The cost of treatment must also be affordable."

• **Communication services** (including Internet connection):

"Every Malaysian must be able to enjoy such modern services," he said.

However, the Prime Minister reminded the people that they have to be smart consumers and be prudent with their spending.

He said, as consumers, they should look out for good bargains when sourcing these six essential items.

"We, on our part, will constantly monitor the inflation situation, but consumers should know their role as consumers to help ensure it is under control," he said.

On the sugar situation, which he likened the diesel shortage, which was caused by irresponsible traders and entrepreneurs, Abdullah said the Government would not give in pressure to raise sugar prices.

Describe such moves by traders as "anti-people and anti consumer", he said raising the price would have a spiral effect on other goods.

He said the Government must be careful when taking any action with regard to the sugar price as many other, items also used sugar.

"Traders and entrepreneurs only want profit, they do not consider the people's interests, they don't care," he said, adding that the people should provide information on such acts.