

Justice and fairness rule, says Abdullah

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Justice and fairness to all form the Prime Minister's moral compass in governing the country, regardless of questions of personal style.

"I know it is not a bed of roses for all of us all the time, but regardless of what some people say — whether I am firm or soft — any action I take is guided by only one thing and that is fairness and justice for all," Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at the Penang Chinese Chamber new year open house in George Town today.

He said such a principle was his obligation as a leader, and it was also clearly spelt out in the Quran.

This was the dominant theme in Abdullah's speeches and statements over the Chinese New Year

weekend here and in Penang, as he touched on various issues.

Excerpts:

- On political stability: "Political stability is not something that can be produced in a factory. It comes through co-operation and understanding of rights and aspirations, as well as the spirit of tolerance."

- On the proposed independent police complaints and misconduct commission and a statement by Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Musa Hassan that not all recommendations on intimate body searches were practical: "(The police) are free to come out with statements about their work. We will take their views into consideration."

- On a suggestion by former fi-

nance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin that the Cabinet declassify minutes of its meeting of 15 years ago relating to Syarikat Teratai KG (STKG) Sdn Bhd and Metramac Corporation: "It is a matter for the Cabinet to decide. I don't want to say anything as there is no benefit (in talking about it)."

- On the promise by MCA and Gerakan to continue working together to develop Penang: "I am very happy... hopefully Penang will continue to attain greater success."

- On the food served at the joint MCA-Gerakan open house which was predominantly mamak fare such as *nasi tomato*, *kurma*, mamak-style fried *koay teow* and *acar*: "The Chinese New Year party today is very special. This is Chi-

nese New Year but there is no Chinese food served because the Chinese are busy celebrating and they have no time to cook. The food being served is Indian food, to the extent that even the Penang *char koay teow* is cooked by Indians. This is the speciality of the Penang people, they are always together in everything."

- On things in store for Penang under the Ninth Malaysia Plan to be unveiled next month: "I believe there will be some very interesting things for Penang outlined."

Other open house attended by the PM included the Gerakan-MCA joint reception at the Penang International Sports Arena today and the MCA and Gerakan open house in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.