

Vote wisely, Abdullah tells Sarawakians

The Star
20/5/2006

IPOH: As Sarawakians go to the polls today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has reminded them to vote wisely.

He said while voters were free to choose the government of their choice, they must think of their future.

Abdullah, who is also Barisan Nasional chairman, said it was vital that Sarawakians chose a government that could bring progress to the state and also ensure good governance.

He expressed confidence that voters would give the coalition another mandate in the state elections today.

"They want the Barisan to win," Abdullah said after witnessing the signing at a hotel here yesterday of an MoU between Tesco Stores Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Meranti Tiga Sdn Bhd to develop an agriculture programme.

"Victory in Sarawak means that the state will continue to progress and prosper."

Abdullah noted that Sarawak was expected to experience rapid development in the next five years, and added that it had been given a higher allocation under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"But such plans can only be carried out if there is continued good rapport between the state government and the Federal Government.

"The co-operation will ensure that development plans can be implemented smoothly," he said.

On a recent report that only four of the 15 largest government-linked companies (GLCs) in the country had suffered losses last year, Abdullah said it was proof that the GLC transformation programme was a success.

"I have insisted on the importance of GLCs using the Performance Key Index and this has proven its effectiveness," he said.

Later, Abdullah visited the abandoned Perak Tengah police complex project in Seri Iskandar, about 55km from here.

The project, costing about RM19mil, was abandoned four years ago.

Abdullah also had lunch with Raja Muda of Perak Raja Nazrin Shah at the Kinta Palace here before performing Friday prayers at the Sultan Azlan Shah mosque.