

Abdullah: BN formula has created peaceful nation

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■ By Mimi Syed Yusof
mimisy@nst.com.my

IPOH: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reminded the people that unity, racial harmony, a strong economy and an equally strong government were the three main ingredients of a developed nation.

He said from the first day he took office as prime minister, he had focused on these factors — ensuring that multiracial harmony was maintained, the economy was kept growing and the power-sharing concept of the Barisan Nasional in government was continued.

Malaysia, he said, was already on the right track towards becoming a developed country. It had grown by leaps and bounds, he said, but could only move forward more forcefully if today's government were to remain, with the people's full support.

"Without unity and racial harmony, there will be no development because the people will forever be fighting.

"In order to have that united front, there must be a government with a power-sharing concept like the BN.

"I am very conscious and aware of my position and know that I am governing a country of people with diverse cultures and backgrounds," he said at the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI) centennial celebrations at Stadium Indera Mulia yesterday.

Abdullah said his agenda was to enlarge the country's economic cake to enable all Malaysians to enjoy greater benefits.

"This is necessary because if there is no economic growth, then the people will not be happy, and if the people are not happy, they will not continue to support the government.

"We in the government must strive to enlarge the economic pie so that everyone will have a piece to enjoy, the bigger the better.

"If the pie is small there will be



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (left) lovingly feeds his wife, Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, a pinch of *pulut kuning* (yellow glutinous rice) at the Perak menteri besar's official residence in Ipoh yesterday. Baiduri (the state's wives of elected representatives association), chaired by the Perak MB's wife, Datin Seri DiRaja Kamariah Mokri, had organised a function in honour of the recently married couple. More than 500 people from various women's organisations turned up for the celebration.

disgruntled parties and this is not good."

Abdullah said the government's concentration on a well-rounded economy was not confined to certain states but was all-encompassing and covered the whole country.

That is why there is economic policy implementation for the northern, central, southern and eastern corridors.

Abdullah said the BN formula which had been in use since Merdeka was effective in creating a peaceful nation made up of the varied races, religions and customs.

He said based on the principle of

democracy, the rule of the BN government was fair and just, and took into consideration the interests of people from all levels of society.

Citing an example, he touched on the issue that was raised by the opposition in the recent Ijok by-election, for which a non-Malay MIC candidate was fielded by the BN in a Malay-majority constituency.

"Similarly, when Umno won a substantial number of seats in Penang in the 1991 general election, and Gerakan and MCA lost ground, the post of chief minister still went to Gerakan," he said.

This, he said, showed that what

was important to the BN was the welfare of the component parties and not individuals.

Abdullah later visited a trade exposition organised by the PCCCI where more than 400 businesses participated.

There were also delegations from China, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam and Mauritius.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali, former MCA president Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik, PCCCI president Datuk Lim Kok Cheong, and Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Malaysia president Tan Sri William Cheng.