

# M'sia set to reach the sky

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## PM: Economic climate is very good

**PENANG:** The economic climate in Malaysia is very good and the country is seen as the third most competitive country after China and India, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"Malaysia is all set to reach the sky," the Prime Minister said.

He said this in his speech when opening the Penang Muslim League's golden jubilee celebration at a hotel here yesterday.

Abdullah said Malaysians had the capacity to face challenges of the future.

"It is not easy but it is not difficult either. We have already achieved several targets. With good management skills, hard work and integrity, we have hope," he said.

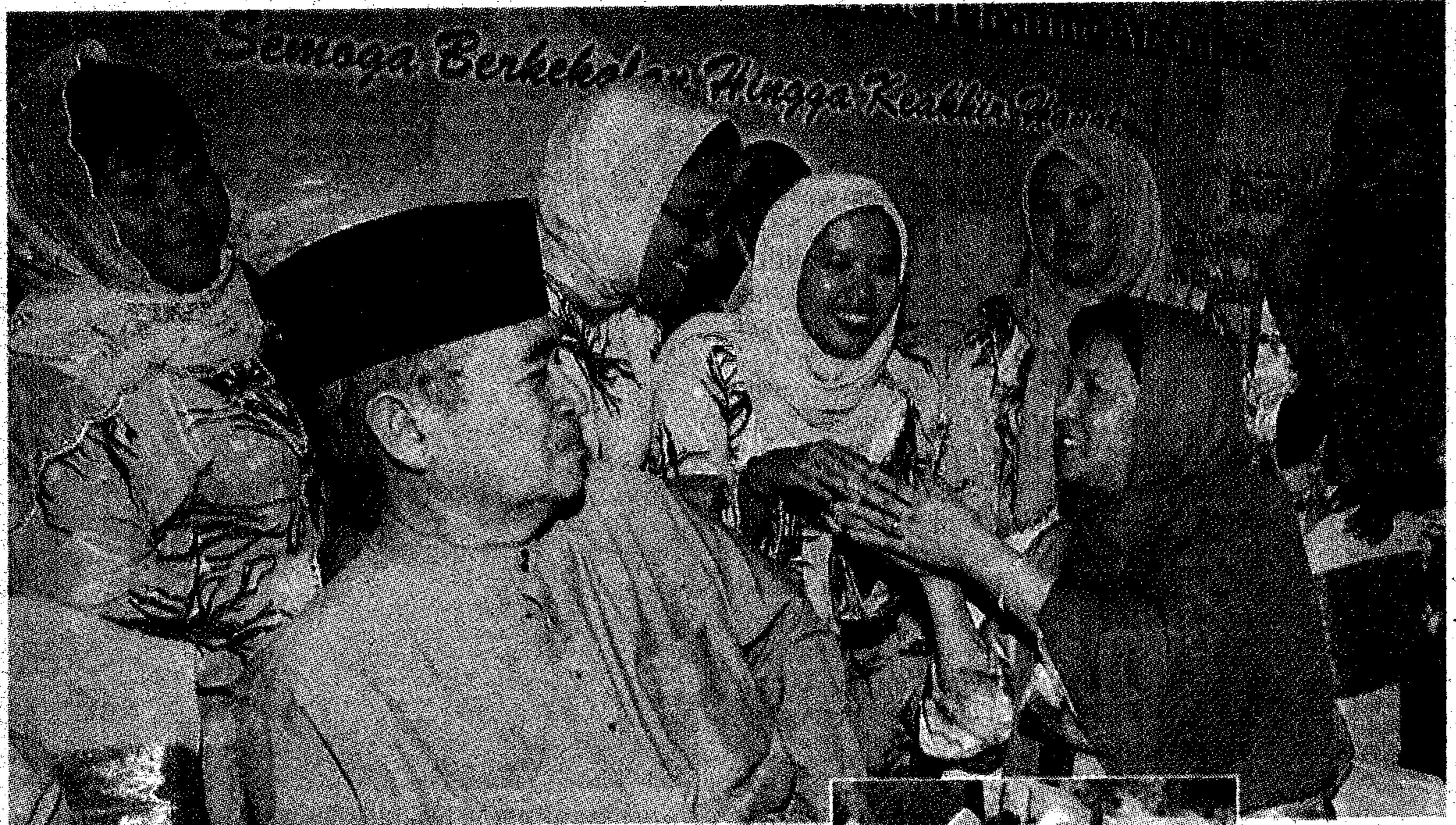
He said the country could expect a 4% growth in the construction sector.

"The service sector can also record a growth of more than 19%," he added.

He said that the emergence of economic corridors in the south, north and east would further stimulate growth.

On another matter, Abdullah lauded the league for remaining strong 50 years after its inception.

"Most associations would be either weak or dissolved before hitting 50 but the league is still strong," he said, adding that the league used to be active in politics but now it functioned as a non-



**Pleased to meet you:** Kepala Batas Puteri Umno members congratulating Jeanne yesterday.

governmental organisation.

Earlier, Abdullah and his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah made their first public appearance together in his hometown of Kepala Batas.

About 3,000 local leaders and residents gathered early in the day to get a glimpse of the two who stopped at Abdullah's family house in Jalan Perak.

The couple offered prayers at the grave of Abdullah's parents next to the Jamiul Al-Badawi's Mosque along the same road.

He also attended Friday prayers at the mosque where the newlyweds were treated to a *kenduri*.



**Memento:** All the well-wishers received traditional cakes and bunga telur in bags with the picture of the newlyweds.