

# PM: BN will continue to fulfil people's aspirations

NST- 11/2/2007

■ By Firdaus Abdullah  
firdy@nst.com.my

**MIRI:** Barisan Nasional will continue to represent the majority of Malaysians only if it remains relevant and fulfils the aspirations of the people, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

Abdullah, who is BN chairman, reminded the coalition's members at the opening of the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu's 11th triennial general assembly that the demands of a more informed electorate were changing.

"If we want to remain relevant, then we must change for the better in every possible aspect. We must enhance our leadership with a greater level of knowledge and be focused in wanting to provide for the people. We must be

fully committed to serving the people," Abdullah said in his address.

"The people will continue to be with us only if we constantly improve the way we manage and steer the nation. The people's expectations of us are not the same today as they were when we achieved independence.

"The better educated and informed Malaysians today demand better service and performance from us and we must face this challenge head-on. Challenges are not problems but opportunities for us to prove ourselves. Face these challenges with the strength that you have and you will succeed."

Since independence from the British in 1957, BN had transformed the country into an emerging economy but more

could be done if mistakes were recognised and corrected, he said.

"I must say that we have done a good job in developing this country, but at the same time we must look back and identify our shortcomings during this 50-year journey."

Speaking before 1,500 PBB delegates and grassroots leaders gathered for the four-day party convention here, Abdullah said the fundamental strength of BN was the unity and spirit of consensus that had prevailed since its early days.

He elaborated at length on the wisdom of power-sharing among the races, which was conceptualised by the first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman.

Also present were PBB president and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and other

state BN component party leaders.

Focusing on Sarawak and the government's balanced and equitable approach, Abdullah said the state had progressed well under Taib's leadership and reaffirmed the federal government's support in bringing greater development to every strata of society.

"In terms of size, Sarawak is as big as Peninsular Malaysia where we have many state governments to implement development programmes but here in Sarawak we only have one state government.

"The federal government will be fully behind you in all your development programmes for the people."

The prime minister also reiterated the need to develop human capital in the nation's march towards Vision 2020.