

# PM pays tribute to Tunku

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**MIRI:** Malaysians can look back at the past 50 years, hold their heads up high and say "We have done a good job", said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

They must remember one person in particular - Tunku Abdul Rahman. The Prime Minister said this when paying a glowing tribute to Bapa Merdeka here yesterday.

"We, Malaysians, today are lucky - all because of the greatness of Tunku. Together with the MCA and the MIC and the others, they established a solid foundation for our country.

"Umno had enough majority to rule on its own then, but Tunku was a visionary who wanted unity at all costs. He brought in all the other races into politics and administration, even though the Chinese at that time were more keen on business," he said when opening the triennial general assembly of Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu here.

Abdullah said the power-sharing concept among the races showed that Tunku was a brilliant and wise political leader.

"He did not spend his time in palaces or high

places, but he went to the ground and even stayed in the kampung with the people. That is what we should emulate.

"For the past 50 years, we have worked very hard to develop our country. We are enjoying now the benefits of our efforts.

"Just by looking at Sarawak and Sabah, you can tell we have done a good job in developing the country. Because we (Barisan Nasional) are the Government, we know our strengths and our weaknesses and have shown our commitment to improve," he said.

Abdullah said the idea of a five-year Malaysia Plan was a brilliant administrative and management strategy.

"The plan allows everyone to see what we have achieved, where we have improved and what we still lack in.

"The rakyat has the voting power to decide if they want the Government. The people will realise that Barisan has always continuously improved on what we have done. I am confident that the rakyat will continue to be with us if we keep working hard for them," he added.