

PM thanks Koo, Tan for stunning win

NST-13/3/2007

■ **By Eileen Ng**
eileen@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: One of the many Malaysians glued to the television set on Sunday night to watch Malaysia triumph in the All England men's doubles was Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The prime minister praised Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong for their stunning win.

During his speech at the launch of the Napoleon Hill International Convention at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday, Abdullah said he was glued to the TV to follow the game, which the pair played against world champions Fu Haifeng and Cai Yun of China.

"They were playing very hard, with Malaysian supporters shouting '*Malaysia boleh*' all the way."

Describing it as a very exciting game, he was happy that the Malaysian pair won in 39 minutes.

"We got back what we lost 25 years

ago," he said, referring to Razif and Jalani Sidek, who were the last Malaysian pair to win the All England doubles title in 1982.

He immediately called Koo and Tan to congratulate them. "I thanked them on behalf of all Malaysians. We are proud of them."

He said the win showed the determination and confidence of Malaysians to succeed in whatever they set their minds on.

Meanwhile, a Bernama report from **Birmingham** said that Koo and Tan received a pleasant surprise when Abdullah called them on the telephone to congratulate them after the match.

They had also received a similar call from Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said.

"We were caught by surprise when told that the prime minister was on the line and wanted to speak to us. I thanked the prime minister for his support and taking the time to call us," said Koo.

He added that the call came about 20 minutes after the match.