

PM: Good times now will be better when polls come

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KUALA LUMPUR: While the situation may be conducive for polls now, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it will be even better when the general election is called.

Declining to indicate when the election would be held, he said the Barisan Nasional was prepared at all times.

"People feel good now, better than before, but when the election comes, they will feel even better."

The prime minister said the economy was in good shape and would improve further with the projects due to be carried out un-

der the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"Whenever a government is halfway through its tenure, people start speculating that elections are near. But this does not mean that I will fix a date.

"There is still a lot to do and we must do as much as possible because this is what we promised the people."

Speaking after chairing the BN supreme council meeting at Menara Dato Onn yesterday, Abdullah said the meeting discussed the country's development beyond Vision 2020.

"We asked ourselves, what next after 2020? What are we hoping for? If we want to look forward, we have to look at 2057.

"That does not mean that we

forget about Vision 2020. This is something that we must achieve. But we must look at 2020 and beyond.

"In my opinion, our hopes are on the younger generation and the generations to come. They are the ones who will determine where this country goes and we hope that they will bring it forward."

Abdullah said the spirit of unity and harmony should be strengthened further as this was an extension of Vision 2020.

He also said the media should be careful in its reports.

He said the newspaper which reported that Nadia Amira Jamil, a student of SMK Tun Sardon in Rengit, Batu Pahat, was the country's top scorer with 19As should

apologise. Nadia Amira had scored 14 1As, 4 2As and a 3B.

"I feel sorry for her. Never once did she say that she would get 19 As. The media said this and built up her hopes.

"I think an apology is due, as no one could know her results. The results only came out today (yesterday). You (the paper) have embarrassed her."

Abdullah had words of encouragement for Nadia Amira.

"I want to congratulate her. Getting 14 1As is an excellent effort all the same. It shows that she is an exceptional student who works diligently for her results. It also shows that schools far from big cities can also produce students with good results," he said.