

Abdullah: I have full confidence in Najib

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday he had full confidence in Datuk Seri Najib Razak as his deputy.

"I have confidence in Najib as the deputy prime minister for I am satisfied with many of the tasks he has implemented," he said after launching the National Intellectual Property Day 2007 here.

The prime minister was responding to queries surrounding the opposition's attacks on Najib in the run-up to the Ijok state by-election in Selangor, which takes place today.

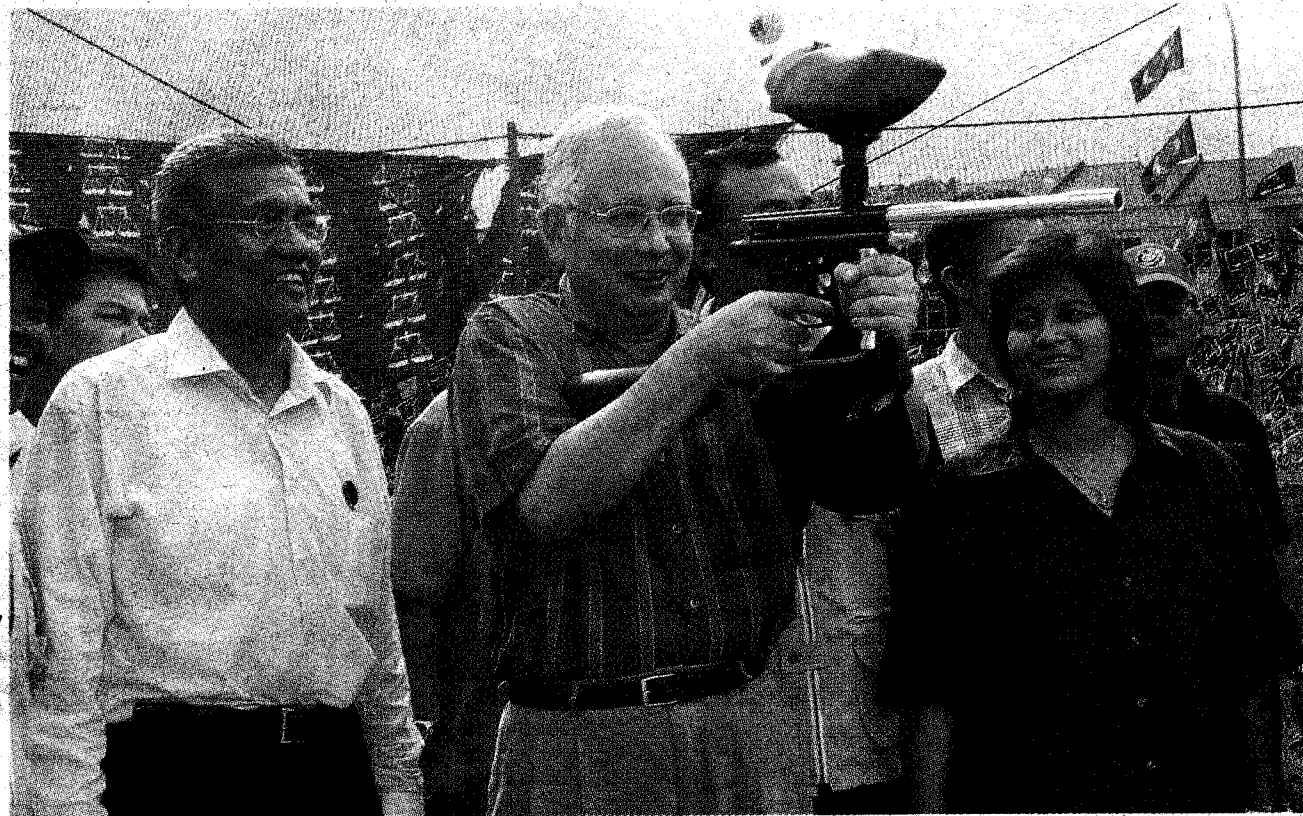
Abdullah said Najib, in his capacity as BN deputy chair-

man, had on numerous occasions proven his ability to lead the BN by-election machinery.

The prime minister also said the opposition should not have made personal attacks against his deputy.

Since campaigning started following nominations on April 19, the opposition had, among others, tried to link Najib to the murder of Mongolian Altantuya Shaariibuu.

Asked about Najib's statement that Parti Keadilan Rakyat candidate Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim was contesting the seat as he was unhappy with the government over the acquisition of shares in Guthrie, Abdullah said he be-



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak trying out a paintball gun at Batang Berjuntai on Thursday. With him are Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Azalina Othman Said (right) and 4B Youth movement treasurer Datuk Ahmad Bahari (left).

lieved that Najib had a strong basis for saying what he did.

"I was told that Tan Sri Khalid wants to take some kind of action against Datuk Seri Najib. If that's what he wants, so be it," he said.

On the personal attacks seen during the Ijok by-election campaigning, Abdullah said it was an unfortunate sit-

uation which started when the opposition fired the first salvo.

"When one group starts to do it then the other group will respond in the same manner. The rakyat is not going to benefit at all, the rakyat wants development, they want to know what the issues are, what the chosen party and candidate can do for them.

"I think that's what the rakyat wants to know," he said.

Abdullah urged the voters in Ijok to turn up in large numbers today to choose an assemblyman capable of bringing development to the constituency.

"Hopefully, everybody will head to the polling centres.

They shouldn't allow anyone to stop them from performing their duty," he said.

He reiterated that BN had picked the right candidate in K. Parthiban to contest the Ijok seat.

"I believe that we have a good candidate this time. The man can really deliver," he added. — Bernama

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