

# Flash your smiles

Abdullah: Make this the most fantastic year ever for tourists

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The time is now; the place is Malaysia. There is so much to explore, so much to experience.

With these messages to the people of the world, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi launched Visit Malaysia 2007 at Taman Tasik Titawangsa here.

As for Malaysians, the Prime Minister's message is for them to make it the most dazzling, fascinating and exciting year ever for tourists.

"I am sure that if we work together, we can truly make this a fantastic year," he said before 30,000 people, including foreign tourists, who had joined in the celebrations.

Abdullah urged Malaysians to assist tourists and be friendlier.

"Friendliness, after all, is one of the specialties of Malaysians.

"Do whatever you can to make them feel at home even if it is a simple thing like giving directions," he said, adding that a visitor to Malaysia was "paying the price of one to see three different cultures".

He reminded Malaysians that if visitors felt comfortable and saw



Celebrating 50 Years of Nationhood

how peaceful the country was, they would then invest in the country.

"This will also further improve the tourism industry, which is one of the main contributors to our economy," he said.

Abdullah added that this year also marked the Golden Jubilee of Malaysia.

"We would like to invite all visitors to join us in celebrating 50 years of peace and harmony in the country."

Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said: "VMY 2007 is all about bringing Malaysia to the world and bringing the world to Malaysia.

"We enjoy having visitors, we love diversity and the differences, be it race, religion or culture.

"That is why we have branded ourselves as Malaysia Truly Asia."