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No one denied right to vote, says PM

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GEORGE TOWN: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he always believed the country's elections were democratic and fair.

The government has never denied the right to vote to those who are eligible and this was proven in an international poll that showed Malaysians were the most confident in Asia of their country's free and fair elections, the prime minister added.

He was asked to comment on a report yesterday on the results of

a new global survey, Voice of the People, conducted by TNS and Gallup International, which found that three-quarters of Malaysians answered yes to whether elections in the country were free and fair.

He was pleased to note that the government has been doing the right thing all the while.

However, he stressed that the government would continue to do more and perform better.

He said the government's policy has always been people-centred.

"This is because we know that without the people we are nowhere. A lot of things we do today, like initiating the regional corridors, are for the people.

"Of course, we cannot see results in the short-term. But we will keep pursuing them because this is our agenda for the people."

Asked to comment on a report that Malaysia practised apartheid as claimed by an Indian national who had been staying in the country for the past 17 years, Abdullah

said: "That came from someone who barely knew us.

"I was a foreign minister once and one thing I constantly heard from the ambassadors was how fond they were of Malaysia and our way of life," he said.

He also said the government would make public the terms of reference and the members of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Lingam video-clip incident after getting the consent from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.