

PM: Emphasis will be on hot-spot areas

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ALOR STAR: The Barisan Nasional government will accord due emphasis to the states where support for the opposition is alleged to be on the rise, the prime minister said.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he would take into consideration the views of former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin who claimed that Selangor, Penang and Kedah were hot spots in the coming election.

He said the government would give its fullest attention to all states, regardless of the problems arising in any one of them.

"I welcome Daim's opinion. The government will continue to give attention to all states, including Selangor, Penang and Kedah," Abdullah said after handing out foodstuff to about 300 flood victims at Sekolah Kebangsaan Gunung here yesterday.

In an exclusive interview with *China Press*, Daim urged the government to pay heed to Selangor, Penang and Kedah.

He claimed that some among Selangor's middle class were unhappy with certain government policies.

Advising elected representatives to make regular rounds in their constituencies, Daim urged the Penang government to listen to its people's grouses.

This, he said, was to avoid a "wind of change" in the coming election.

Earlier, during a *korban* ceremony in Baling, Abdullah said he wanted to see projects under the



Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi quenches his thirst with a honey drink presented to him after he distributed meat to the needy in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kuala Pegang in Baling, Kedah, yesterday. On the left is Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahadzir Khalid.

Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) up and running on his next visit to Kedah.

"I no longer want to attend ceremonies. I will come here and inspect projects.

"I have decided that I will see for myself whether it is true or untrue

(that work is not being done).

"The programmes which have been outlined must be carried out. The authoritative body has been set up, officers have been deployed, and the areas have been identified," he said in a speech to about 2,000 people at the Sekolah

Kebangsaan Kuala Pegang.

Abdullah said the government's focus on agriculture in the NCER was deliberate because people in the north were good at it.

He urged farmers to add value to their crops by creating new products.

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