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Survey results a birthday boost for PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who turned 68 on Monday, was happy over the findings of a survey by an opinion polling outfit that Malaysians of all races were pleased with the government.

"If that is what the survey showed, then I am happy. We will continue to administer the country like we are doing now. The important thing is that we will do everything possible to ensure the success of the national vision to uplift all Malaysians," he told Malaysian newsmen at the end of his two-day working visit to Egypt.

The recent survey by polling outfit Merdeka Center found that the overall rating for the prime minister also remained steady, especially among the Malays.

A total of 1,024 respondents throughout Peninsular Malaysia were polled on issues and concerns leading up to the general election. They were chosen to form a sample reflecting the population profile.

The survey showed that the primary concerns of most Malaysians were the economy and the crime rate.

Abdullah thanked those who had supported the government and also those who had criticised his administration.

"It is fine if someone wants to criticise us, as long as it is constructive criticism. We will try to do whatever possible to overcome the problems we face.

"To those who support the current government, I wish to say 'thank you'.

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*Datuk Seri Abdullah
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overboard. Do not make your own conclusions without knowing the truth."

Asked what his birthday wish was, Abdullah said: "I just want to stay healthy and be happy".

Is Egypt his last overseas trip before the general election? Abdullah laughed and said: "I've got three or four more (overseas) invitations."

Asked if he was going on these trips any time soon, he said he would still be in the country.

On the possibility that the general election would be held during the Chinese New Year holiday pe-



Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi cutting the 'pulut kuning' to mark his birthday on his arrival at the Subang air force base yesterday. At right is his wife, Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah.

riod, Abdullah said: "I will be in the country. There is going to be the CNY open house."

Abdullah and his wife, Datin

Seri Jeanne Abdullah, left for home on Monday night. They arrived at the Subang air force base yesterday evening.