

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 29/12/2007

Abdullah: Extremism must not be tolerated

NST-29/12/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday expressed shock over the assassination of former Pakistan prime minister Benazir Bhutto and strongly condemned the act which killed many innocent people.

"The resort to extremism and violence is unacceptable. It cannot be tolerated anywhere, any time. The perpetrators must be brought to justice."

Abdullah, who is also chairman of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, extended his condolences to the families of Benazir and the others killed in the incident.

"I hope the people of Pakistan will remain calm. I pray the situation there will soon stabilise."

Benazir, 54, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, was killed in a suicide attack in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, also extended their deepest condolences to Benazir's family and to the families of the bystanders killed.

"We pray for the continued peace and stability of Pakistan and that the family of Benazir Bhutto and the people of Pakistan will be patient in facing these testing times," Dr Mahathir said in his message to the Pakistan High Commissioner to Malaysia, Tahir Mahmud Qazi. — Bernama