

THE SUN

DATE: 6 / 11 / 2007

PM tells delegates to mind their language

The Sun - 6/11/2007

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday told the Umno leaders that they would have to face the challenges of dealing with the rising prices of goods and of maintaining unity in the country.

Jaşin Umno division deputy chief Datuk Mohd Said Yusof said the prime minister had, in his closed-door briefing to some 1,800 grassroots leaders, advised them that for the sake of national unity, they should not go overboard in their speeches during the Umno General Assembly which started last night.

"He asked us to control ourselves a bit [when giving speeches] as unity does not come easy. He also cited the Hindu temple demolition, that he had directed [Selangor Menteri Besar] Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo to explain the matter to the people," he said when met after the briefing at PWTC.

"The president also told us not to overspend given the rising prices of oil and consumer goods," he added.

Although the government has kept to its promise not to raise retail prices of fuel this year, there is speculation that the reprieve would end next year, as global oil prices continue to surge.

Pontian Umno division head Datuk Husni Mohammad said Abdullah was saddened by the demolition of a Hindu temple in Shah Alam last week.

"The president said Mohd Khir Toyo, deputy premier Datuk Seri Najib [Abdul] Razak and the prime minister will meet with Datuk Seri [S] Samy Vellu to come up with a consensus," he said.

In a brief press conference yesterday, Najib said the party had overcome various challenges and trials. "The prime minister is confident that based on our track record and unity, we can overcome whatever challenges we have," he said.

He said that Abdullah had also emphasised the importance of unity, human capital development and the development of the Malays as well as other communities.