

DATE: 28/2 / 2008

# People not gullible, says Abdullah



NST-28/2/2008

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**KUALA KEDAH:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the opposition, devoid of ideas, was resorting to pitting the people against each other in a desperate bid to win support.

The prime minister said the opposition, also envious of the Barisan Nasional government, was claiming that the Chinese would not vote for BN.

"They want the people to be at odds with one another. They want the Malays to get upset.

"They want to split BN because they are jealous of our achievements," he said at a meet-the-people session here yesterday.

With him were his wife Datin Paduka Seri Jeanne Abdullah and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

Abdullah said the opposition was concocting tales to stir up suspicion among BN component parties.

"They hope this would cause the majority of the people, represented by BN component parties, to fight and ultimately cause a split in the ruling coalition.

"They think that people are gullible and would turn to them for leadership."

He said the people knew and accepted that only the BN could unite the people and bring progress to them.

"Let me ask you. Who can honestly say that the people from his or her community has been left out or failed to achieve any progress these past 50 years?"

He said the opposition had also underestimated the people's intelligence when it claimed the BN government had resorted to abus-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi getting to know Hani Syazwani, 3, carried by her mother Hindon Ibahim, 41, (right) and 1-year-old Nurin Nadia Nayan held by mother Rashadah Ahmad, 43, at the meet-the-people session in Taman Sri Putra, Kuala Kedah, yesterday.

es of power and funds.

"Come on, the people can judge us by the programmes we have carried out and those we will be carrying out for them.

"People are wiser than they (opposition) think and cannot be duped so easily."

Abdullah said the success enjoyed by the people did not come easily.

"We also never said that every-

thing was fine and that there was nothing else to be done.

"There is still a lot we want to do for the people and they know that together, with their continued support, we will overcome all hurdles and reach greater heights."

On the objective of eradicating poverty, he said it involved the poor and poorest of all communities.

The prime minister said the gov-

ernment had never lied about the amount spent to alleviate the burden of rising prices for basic food items, and especially, fuel.

"We allocate a large amount each year to continue providing subsidies."

Abdullah said the opposition would make all kinds of promises but did not care if they were practical or could lead the country to bankruptcy.