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# PM: I'm working hard for nation's prosperity

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**GEORGE TOWN:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday said he was aware of his responsibilities and had been working hard for the country's continued growth and prosperity.

"You can say I am not good enough. You can say whatever but don't say that I don't work.

"I work very hard. I mean it and you know it," he said to loud applause from guests at the Penang Chinese Town Hall here for a Chinese New Year open house.

In his speech, Abdullah said as a Muslim he had an obligation to fulfill his duty and would carry it out diligently.

"It is the will of God that I have become the prime minister and it is my responsibility to work and serve the people.

"I have not benefited one sen from anyone for what I have done. Some people want to give me money but I don't need it. The government takes good care of its prime minister."

Abdullah stressed that in fulfilling his responsibilities, he had to be fair to all races and called on everyone to work together to create a prosperous country.

"As Malaysians, we must always feel we are among friends even though we are from the minority



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (centre) being greeted by well-wishers at the Penang Chinese Town Hall New Year open house yesterday. On his right is Penang Chinese Town Hall chairman Tan Sri Lim Gaik Tong and on his left is Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon. — Bernama picture

group when a function is organised. If we can have mutual respect among us, then we will be all right," he said.

Touching on the renewal and change that had been initiated, Abdullah said while it was not easy to change mindsets, much had been done especially in the public delivery system.

"I want to see the momentum increasing and we will continue to ensure this," he said in response to Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon's speech earlier. Koh had

spoken on the reforms under Abdullah's leadership, especially in the government's delivery system.

Speaking at another open house later, organised by Gerakan and the MCA at the Penang International Sports Arena, Abdullah said the government was committed to seeing its development projects through.

He said the government was not making empty promises when it announced development plans.

"I must apologise that there have been delays due to some

problems but we are determined to complete all the projects.

"The second finance minister (Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yaccop) has assured me that the projects will be completed," he said, citing the second Penang bridge, Penang Outer Ring Road and monorail projects as examples.

Abdullah said the BN member parties had no choice but to work together as partners as the people wanted to see a united coalition which did not quarrel among themselves.