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# Abdullah slams Anwar for misleading people

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**KEPALA BATAS:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday lashed out at Parti Keadilan Rakyat de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for trying to fool the people in the run-up to the general election.

This is the first time the prime minister, who had always kept his distance, has publicly criticised Anwar for the latter's constant tirade against Abdullah and his administration.

"I never like discussing all this but they have been provoking me and I am fed up.

"The people need to know the truth," he said in a speech to launch the i-Pintar (Pintar interactive teaching and learning system) project for rural schools at Sekolah Kebangsaan Hashim Awang

here yesterday.

"Anwar is only good when it comes to talking and making empty promises," he said, adding that Anwar was once in the government but had not made positive changes when he was in power.

Also present was Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein.

Abdullah singled out the two-tier salary scheme for teachers, which Anwar, then the education minister, had failed to implement effectively.

He said during Anwar's time, teachers were not given any opportunity for career advancement and had to retire on a low salary unlike today.

"So, what is he complaining about? He is only good in making

all sorts of promises because he knows he will never get to form the government.

"We are not like him. We, the Barisan Nasional government, make promises and fulfil them. This is a fact."

At a press conference later, Abdullah was asked to comment on a statement by former Keadilan deputy president Professor Dr Chandra Muzaffar on Monday that it would be an "unmitigated disaster" for Malaysia if Anwar became prime minister.

"I agree with what Chandra said. What he said was true."

Asked if now was the right time for him to respond to Anwar's attacks, Abdullah said: "Whenever it is appropriate, I will have to say something."

On Gerakan adviser Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's statement on Sunday that Anwar was a "chameleon" who changed colour depending on the audience he was addressing, Abdullah said: "This is certainly true from the reports I have heard. In one place Anwar told the Indians something and in another, he said something else. I want to ask what has he done for the Indians?"

"Lim knows best. He worked with Anwar before."

Abdullah also criticised the opposition for exploiting race in its campaigns.

"They are desperate and resort to scaring the people by playing the racial card.

"That is their tactic. The BN will never do that."