

PM: Mind your words

Abdullah tells all
to ensure
trouble-free polls

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KEPALA BATAS: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has advised election candidates to be extra careful with their choice of words during their campaign in order to ensure a trouble-free campaign.

"Be careful with what you say. Don't tarnish the election process," the Prime Minister said after submitting his nomination paper at Dewan Millennium here yesterday.

Abdullah will be defending his Kepala Batas parliamentary seat for the eighth term.

He will be challenged by PAS freelance preacher and Al-Azhar University graduate Subri Mat Arshad, 45.

The Prime Minister said the nomination process nationwide yesterday was reported to be to be peaceful.

Abdullah said the Barisan Nasional was fielding the best candidates, adding that there were cases of those who did not meet the Barisan's strict criteria being dropped at the eleventh hour.

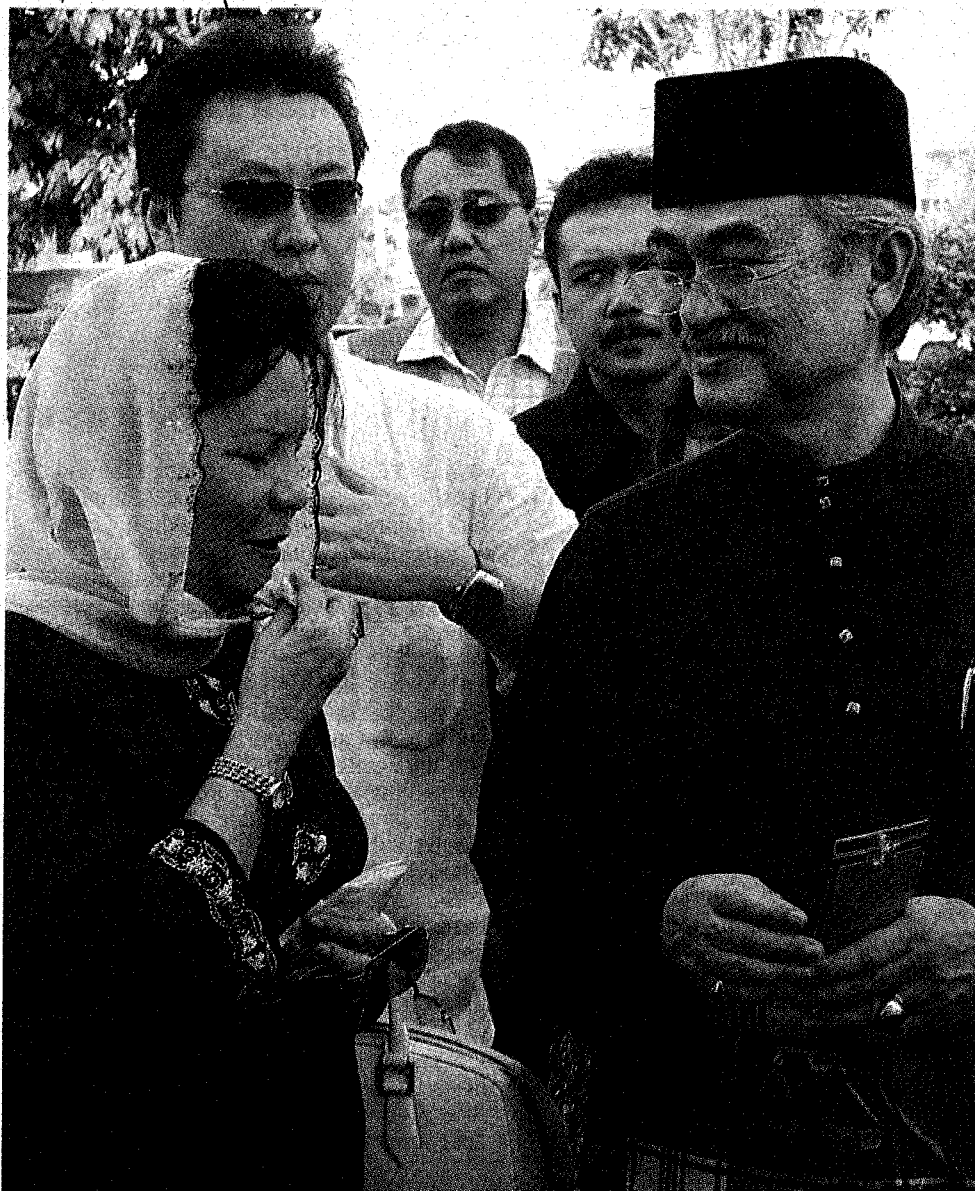
Citing examples, he said: "One of them was declared a bankrupt and we replaced him. Another who has a court case pending against him was also dropped."

Earlier, Abdullah was accompanied by some 2,000 supporters on the 2km walk from his family house in Jalan Perak here to the nomination centre at Dewan Millennium. Brief prayers were recited before the walk.

The entourage included the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah and the three Barisan candidates for the state seats.

They are Datuk Azhar Ibrahim (Penang), Datuk Roslan Saidin (Pinang Tunggal) and Zabariah Abdul Wahab (Bertam).

Azhar will face PAS' Taiudin Hamzah, Roslan will meet Mahamad Hashim (PKR) while Zabariah will be challenged by PKR's Noorsiah Md Arshad.



Private moment: Jeanne wishing Abdullah well on arrival at the nomination centre in Kepala Batas where Abdullah is seeking his eighth term.