

THE SUN

DATE: 4 / 3 / 2008

My four years not a failure: Pak Lah

The Sun - 4/3/2008

by Regina William
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PERMATANG PAUH: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday defended his premiership, saying his four years as prime minister was not a failure.

"I acknowledge that problems do exist, but we have, to an extent, solved many of these over the past few years," he said in apparent response to detractors.

"I have also listened to the problems faced by the people. The government is neither deaf nor sleeping all these years."

Abdulah pledged to continue with his track record of successes, including narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor.

"We have been working very hard and I want to promise you that I will ensure the fruits of success of the nation will also benefit those in the rural areas. This is my pledge to you," he said when launching Tenaga Nasional Berhad's RM100 million control centre in

Seberang Jaya.

The RM100 million control centre is the nerve of Tenaga's system for the northern states of Penang, Kedah, Perlis and Penang and also for the eastern states of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang.

Present were his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Tenaga Nasional chairman Tan Sri Leo Moggie and heads of the various government-linked companies in the country.

Abdullah said that when he took over the country's leadership, the market value of the shares traded on Bursa Malaysia was RM680 billion. But now it has grown to over RM1 trillion."

Abdullah thanked the Malaysian private sector, including the GLCs for contributing to the robust economy of the nation and helping to attract foreign investors to the country.

"These successes are what investors use as a gauge before they even decide to come here," he said, adding that foreign investors will not come

if they are not convinced they would get good returns on their investments.

"When we first moved from being an agriculture-based economy to industrial, we were also not very successful initially. However, thanks to your perseverance and confidence in our economy, we have become successful, and this has helped bring investors from abroad.

"It is the success of our private sector which has catapulted us to become a favoured investment target. If we had failed, they would not be here today," he added.

"When they have confidence that what we do have brought progress, they decided to come and invest with us especially the various corridors which we have recently launched," he said, promising that the rewards and benefits of these mega projects would benefit every Malaysian, he said.