

Power-sharing

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Abdullah: Barisan seat distribution in true spirit of co-operation

BY NICK LEONG
AND IZATUN SHAARI

KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional has finalised the allocation of seats among its 13 component parties and the speed with which this was done is testimony of the coalition's true spirit of power-sharing, declared its chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I am pleased and thankful to God because everything went on smoothly. There were no threats and bad feelings among the party leaders," he told reporters after an Umno supreme council meeting at Menara Datuk Onn here yesterday.

Abdullah, who is Prime Minister, said he had expected "a tough and cantankerous" discussion with the party leaders but was instead pleasantly surprised.

He said the goodwill and understanding among the party leaders boded well for the future of the coalition.

"We achieved a high level of understanding and commitment during the discussions. It shows our commitment to sharing power," he said.

He added that with the settlement of the seat allocation issue, the Barisan was now ready to go to the voters for a fresh mandate.

Abdullah, who had earlier chaired a Barisan supreme council meeting, spoke at length about the kind of candidates he wanted for the elections.

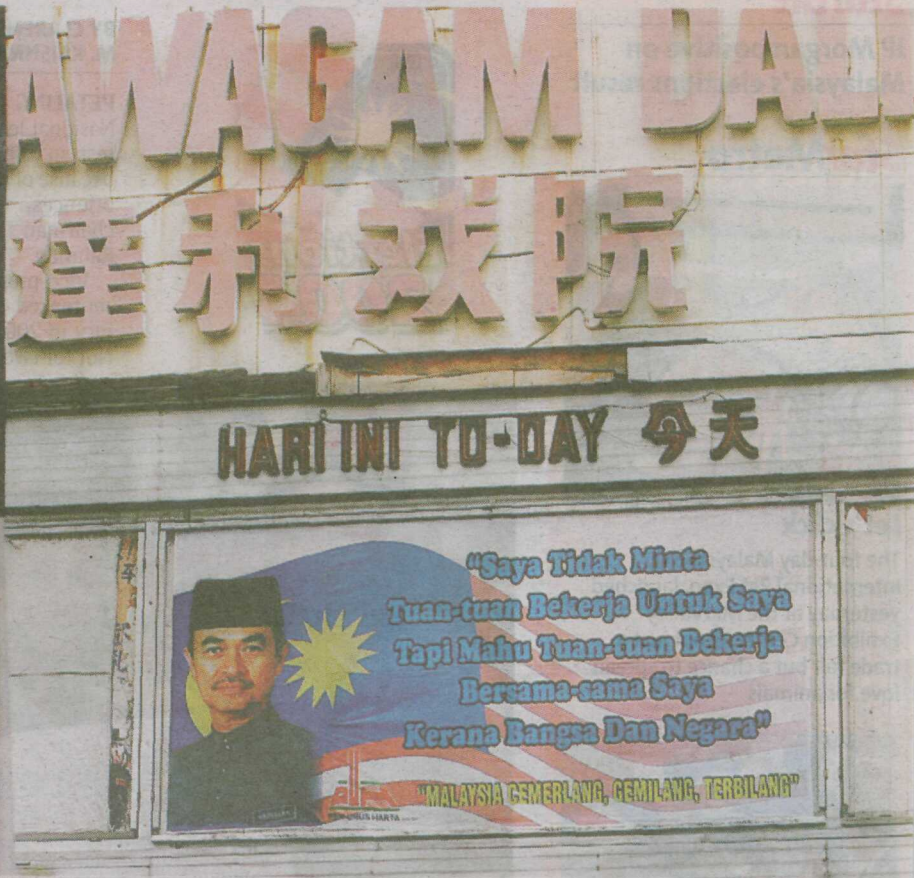
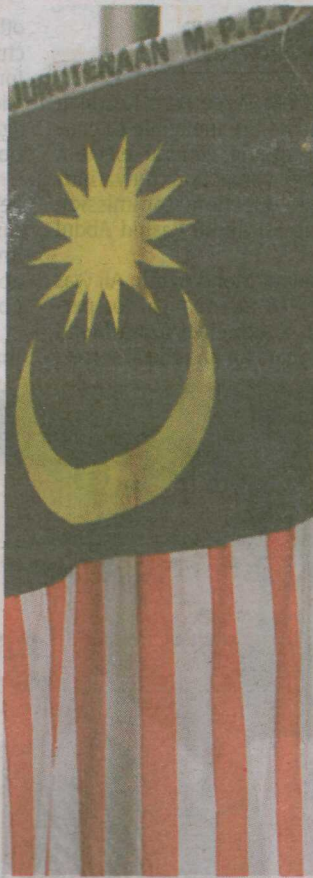
"The most important criterion is that they must be able to serve the *rakyat*. It does not matter if the candidates are young or old, men or women," he said.

Abdullah said he had directed all Barisan component parties to submit their lists of candidates to him by tomorrow.

"I must have the lists of the possible candidates by the day after tomorrow (Saturday) to ensure that nothing could jeopardise the coalition," he said.

He said the final list would be released after he had discussed the candidates' list with Umno state liaison chiefs and Barisan component party leaders.

Abdullah, who is acting Umno president, said aspiring members



Now showing

A poster of Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi with his now famous line 'Do Not Work For Me But Work With Me' pasted on the board of an old cinema at Komtar in Penang. Pen-Urus Harta Sdn Bhd, the company which manages the 65-storey Komtar, put up the poster yesterday. Pen-Urus Harta project supervisor Shaik Ismail Aliar said the poster was put up as a show of support for the Prime Minister. — STARpic by GOH GAIK LEE