

On the campaign trail ...

A day with Pak Lah

A general election is the time when a political leader must make numerous speeches, shake countless hands and accept non-stop invitations to meals. But Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi does it all easily, thanks to his natural and down-to-earth way with the *rakyat*. This was clearly evident when photojournalist TARA SOSROWARDOYO followed him from morning to night on Wednesday.



7am



He also does his own packing.



Abdullah's hands-on ways means he thinks nothing of hanging up his own clothes in his room in Sunway Hotel, Seberang Jaya, about 3km from Butterworth.





Son Kamaluddin comes in to hand an urgent call to him.



Pak Lah goes down to the hotel ballroom to launch the Agenda of Work for Penang with Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon.



His car takes him to the Permatang Pauh Umno division building in Sungai Semambu for a *ceramah*.



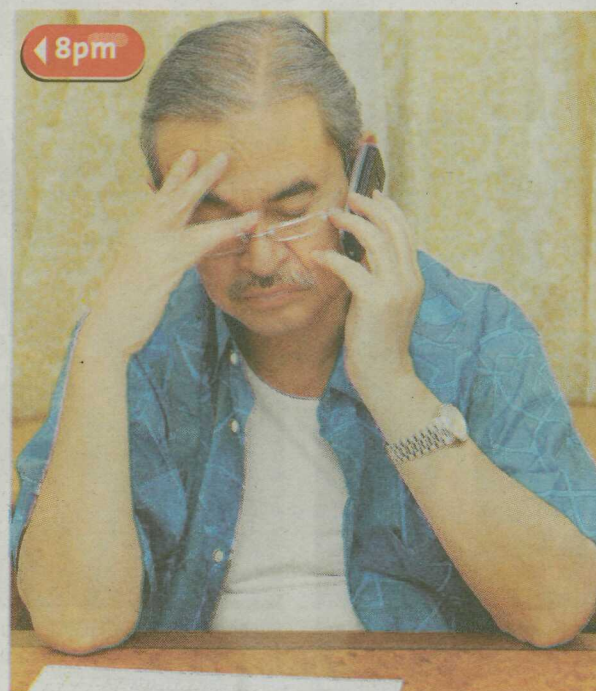
After delivering his speech, Pak Lah confers with Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat candidate Datuk Mohd Pirdaus Ismail. Behind him is Datuk Seri Dr Ibrahim Saad.



He goes to Pokok Jenereh, Tasik Gelugor, to have lunch with his uncle Haji Ismail Said and several supporters after which they read the *yasin* and *doa* together.



Arriving at an MCA-Gerakan dinner at Jalan Dua, Kepala Batas, he is greeted by 4,000 people. This followed another dinner at SJK(C) Mah Hua hosted by residents of Kampung Selamat in the Pinang Tunggal state seat.



Pak Lah returns to the hotel. After a shower and *mahgrib* prayers, he dons a fresh blue batik shirt (blue was his colour for the day) and takes calls and reads reports.



A red carpet welcome awaits Pak Lah at the *padang* in Parit Buntar after he visits the BN Operations Centre there.



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Pak Lah.



From Parit Buntar, he goes to Nibong Tebal where he addresses another massive crowd gathered under huge tents in the public field.



He is greeted by such a huge crowd that it takes him 20 minutes to reach the stage to deliver his speech. This young supporter proudly wears a T-shirt with Pak Lah's image and the words: *Berjuang Bersama Mu* (Together in the struggle).

Abdullah's hands-on ways means he thinks nothing of hanging up his own clothes in his room in Sunway Hotel, Seberang Jaya, about 3km from Butterworth.

12.30am



It is past midnight when he finally arrives at the VIP Lounge of the RMAF Butterworth air base where he has a meeting with an aide before his flight back to Kuala Lumpur.



11.30pm

Despite the late hour, his day is not done as he still has to launch the Puteri Umno branch at Taman Haji Abdullah Fahim, named after his grandfather, as well as open the Umno Hall in the same building.



10.20pm

Arriving at an MCA-Gerakan dinner at by 4,000 people. This followed another residents of Kampung Selamat



10.45pm

It's close to 11pm by the time he finishes his speech and he can eat with his hosts. Many people, who had finished their dinner earlier, stand around just to watch Pak Lah.