

PM warns of 'lies of the devils'

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■ By Shahrum Sayuthi and
M. Hamzah Jamaludin
news@nst.com.my

KUANTAN: Go ahead and criticise but make sure you are sincere in wanting to improve the country.

That was the Prime Minister's message to all Malaysians. But those words would have had special meaning to those who have attacked his style of governance and accused him of selling out the country's interests.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said

that he had little time for those who spread rumours and indulged in slander. He had even less tolerance for the "devils" who whisper evil thoughts into the ears of the people.

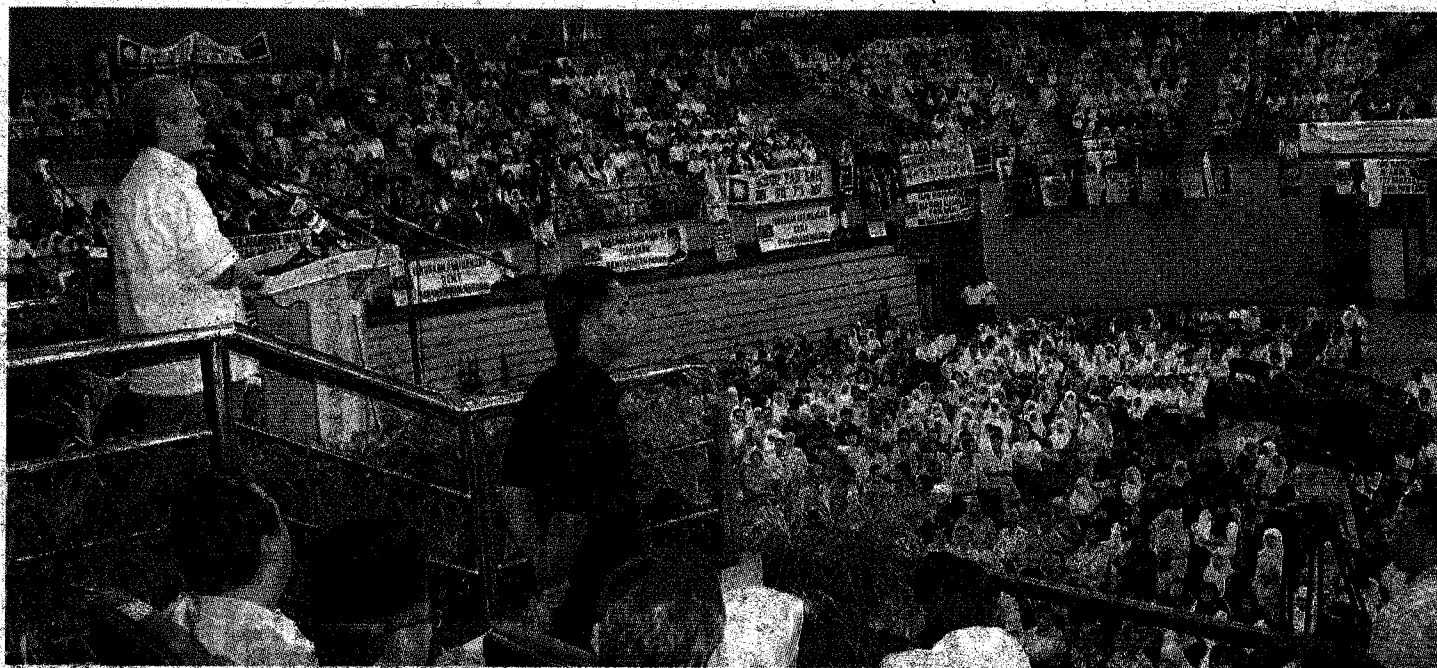
"We just rolled out the Ninth Malaysia Plan but there are already those who

claim that projects are reserved for certain people. These deceitful people also come out with all sorts of other lies. They are like devils who want to disrupt our plans," he told a gathering of 1,000

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PM: I listen to all views

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The Prime Minister speaking at the Silver Jubilee Hall in Kuantan yesterday.

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civil servants at the Silver Jubilee Hall yesterday. Abdullah, who is on a working visit to Pahang, was met by several thousand people at the airport. They held up banners in support of him.

Over the past few months, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has attacked Abdullah, accusing him of

reversing his policies and questioning his leadership of the Government.

In recent weeks, the former prime minister has increased the intensity of the attacks.

In his speech, Abdullah explained his style of governance.

"I am not the smartest ... there are others who are smarter but I am the Prime Minister and it is not

wrong for me to take some time to listen to more views in order to get the best opinion," he said.

Taking an example from the Cabinet meeting yesterday, the Prime Minister said he gave all ministers the chance to air their views on each matter.

"Yesterday, I chaired the Cabinet meeting to discuss next year's budget.

"Nowadays, our ministers talk a lot, not like before ... even Datuk Seri Najib (Razak) once told me that we never had this before.

"It used to be okay, okay, okay and a decision was made."

Abdullah advised civil servants to be positive in facing criticisms.

"We live in this world only once and therefore should do our best to do good," he said.