

PM: Reps' duty to serve the public

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PENANG: Elected representatives should always remember that their duty is to serve the public and not their own interest, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"As elected representatives, our responsibility is very heavy. Sometimes we are praised and at other times scolded and insulted. These are the challenges we face.

"But most importantly, we must be sincere in whatever we do," he said in his speech read by his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak at a dinner held in conjunction with the annual gathering of the wives of elected representatives here on Saturday.

Abdullah said he wanted elected representatives to uphold their promise to serve with full commitment.

He also said their burden would lessen if their wives gave them support and help.

To the wives, he said: "Your burden would be heavier than others for your husbands would have less time to spend with the family."

He said the wives had contributed a lot by helping in charity and social work in their husbands' constituencies while some were even involved in politics, including helping out at the service centres of their spouses.

"I hope that you (the wives) can continue to be strong in facing all circumstances and obstacles, for this is part of life in the politic arena," he said.

The dinner was hosted by the Association of Wives of Penang State Assemblymen and MPs (Persatuan Bunga Tanjung).