

PM: Enough of self-pity, seize opportunities

NST- 1/8/2006

KUALA TERENGGANU: Stop wallowing in self-pity and take advantage of the opportunities to progress.

This is Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's advice to Malaysians, especially those in rural areas.

Addressing a crowd of more than 1,000 from Pulau Duyong yesterday, he said previously when an area was earmarked for development, residents would sell their land and move out as if to isolate themselves from development because they were afraid, sad or disappointed.

He added such sentiment arose because the people did not feel they were a part of the development.

"But you should not look at it that way. Do not think the Government has forgotten you.

"We should look forward to the opportunities offered in development," he said, stressing that the people's needs should be considered when an area was being developed. Abdullah, who is on a two-day working visit here, gave out offer letters to 30 people to rent the affordable Mampu Milik apartments.

He also witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between boat-makers and Accentys Sdn Bhd for the construction of seven traditional boats worth a total of RM320,000.

The boats will be used for the tourism industry at the waterfront of Sungai Terengganu.

Citing the boat-makers as an example, Abdullah said people should be more optimistic about changes and not be lured by money only to later find themselves surviving in an environment that was no better.

"The people here are known for traditional boat-making and today they have secured contracts.

"Such opportunities are bound to come along, but the question remains whether we want to seize the opportunities or not."

Abdullah said development should not follow those of yesteryear, which was not properly planned.

Although such development saw the area progressing, the people who were once living around the area had moved away.