

Party wings declare full support for Abdullah

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DATUK Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday received firm support from the party's three wings.

The declaration was made by the leaders of Wanita Umno, Umno Youth and Puteri Umno at their respective meetings.

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz urged Wanita members to stand firm and remain loyal to the party president and prime minister.

Addressing about 800 delegates at Dewan Merdeka of the Putra World Trade Centre, Rafidah also urged them to contribute effectively towards government and party policies.

"I am asking Wanita members to maintain the tradition of unity and loyalty... to serve and with the objective to maintain the Barisan Nasional tradition in the next general election.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein also expressed his wish for Abdullah to continue leading Umno.

"To Tun Dr Mahathir we are indebted. To Datuk Seri Abdullah — continue to lead us," he said to the applause of more than 700 delegates at Dewan Tun Dr Ismail.

Hishammuddin said the current leadership is more open and transparent in administering the government and managing current issues.

In her policy speech to Puteri members at Dewan Tun Hussein Onn, Datuk Noraini Ahmad said Puteri Umno would continue to support Abdullah and decisions

which had been collectively agreed upon for the good of the religion, race and to achieve the objectives of Vision 2020.

"Puteri still remembers Pak Lah's message in 2003 that we become good and loyal followers to the leader. Puteri will continue to be loyal to the leader," she said.

Debating Rafidah's policy speech, Ampang Wanita chief Dr Rozaidah Talib said the public and party members must stop the "bad

habit" of comparing leaders.

"We must stop making all these comparisons and debates about trivial matters. Otherwise, there will be no end to it. We must continue giving him (Abdullah) our support and mandate so that he can focus on ensuring that the Malay agenda is achieved."

Saying a vision without action would remain a dream, Dr Rozaidah said by giving Abdullah full support, the Malay agenda

would not remain a rhetoric.

"This (Malay) agenda is nothing new. It is a vision we have to achieve to ensure the Malays are on par with the non-Malays. However, this does not mean that we should no longer show respect for former leaders."

Another Wanita delegate, Shari-fah Maznah Syed Kassim who is Alor Star Wanita division chief said the Islam Hadhari concept introduced by Abdullah had succeeded in creating a quality society.