

Pak Lah: No one is perfect

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DATUK Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he would not question the loyalty of Umno members if they point out his mistakes.

"Do point out mistakes, tell me what is not right. Suggest what should be done. I will not question your loyalty," he said in his winding-up speech at the end of the 57th Umno general assembly yesterday.

Abdullah said no one was perfect and everyone had weaknesses and were bound to make mistakes.

"But what is most important is that one should continue to make efforts to better oneself.

"What is lacking should be improved, what is not right should be corrected, what has not been done be done, what is crooked be straightened, what is less efficient made more efficient," he said.

The party president said one must continue to value-add to oneself to be successful and face challenges and problems.

"This is what I will do for

myself as well. As leaders we cannot be left behind," he said.

Abdullah called on the Malays to ensure the success of what the Government had planned for them.

He pledged that together with his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and other Cabinet colleagues, he would ensure that all plans were

implemented.

"I have asked before for you to work with me and not for me. If you want to work with me, please ensure that whatever we implement, you make it a success," he added.

Abdullah said what saddened him most was not when he was criticised or belittled but when privileges, be it licences, con-

tracts or permits awarded to Malays was given to others.

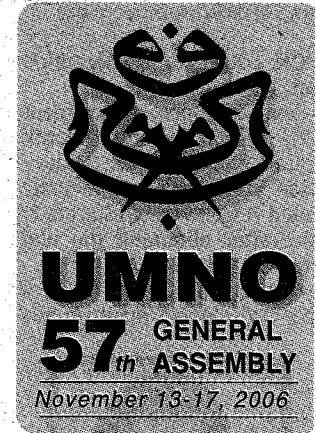
"I am not bothered at all if I am slandered or belittled. But I will be very, very sad if the Malays do not want to make the effort and appreciate what is given to them.

Abdullah said he had obtained feedback that his opening address was similar to

presenting the Ninth Malaysian Plan but said that was what he had wanted to do.

He said the speech had undergone seven or eight drafts before it was presented on Wednesday.

On a more personal note, Abdullah said this was the first Umno general assembly for him without his wife Datin Paduka



Seri Endon Mahmood. She died last year.

He said that everywhere he went during the month of Ramadan, people had offered prayers for her.

"I am very touched and I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for her," he added.

■ **UMNO General Assembly pictorial in centrespread**