

# Pak Lah says consensus decision is his way

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**MALACCA:** How the nation is run is decided by consensus, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"It is always a decision made by consensus (*musyawarah*) by us. I can't make a decision all by myself. This is my way," he said in his speech at a Hari Raya open house at the Malacca International Trade Centre yesterday.

"If anybody wants to voice his opinion, voice it at the Cabinet meeting, Umno supreme council meeting or the Barisan Nasional meeting."

Relating his meeting last Sunday with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, he said the former prime minister was given a chance to speak his mind.

"There was little time left for me to reply. When Tun spoke, I did not want to interrupt. If I had replied right after Tun touched on an issue, he might not have time to finish since we had agreed to meet for two hours only."

Abdullah also told the crowd that the ranking of press free-

dom in Malaysia had improved.

"This means that press freedom in Malaysia is better than in other Asean countries," he

said.

It was reported that Malaysia jumped 21 spots in the Reporters Without Borders' global press freedom ranking this

year, ahead of other countries in the region such as Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia.

After attending the Hari Raya open house, Abdullah met the

Yang di-Pertua Negri of Malacca Tun Mohd Khalil Yaakob, accompanied by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam.