

'No room for arrogance, conceit'

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ALOR STAR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he did not want to see Barisan Nasional component party members becoming arrogant and conceited following the coalition's resounding victory in the general election.

Abdullah said the BN victory should, instead, be seen as an indication of the huge responsibility of the elected representatives to the people.

"There must not be any arrogance and conceit because it can lead us to forget that with the victory comes more work for us to do," Abdullah said at the Kedah BN thanksgiving feast here today.

The feast, held at the Sultan Abdul Halim indoor stadium in Suka Menanti and attended by state component party leaders and election workers, was in celebration of the BN's victory in the March 21 general election.

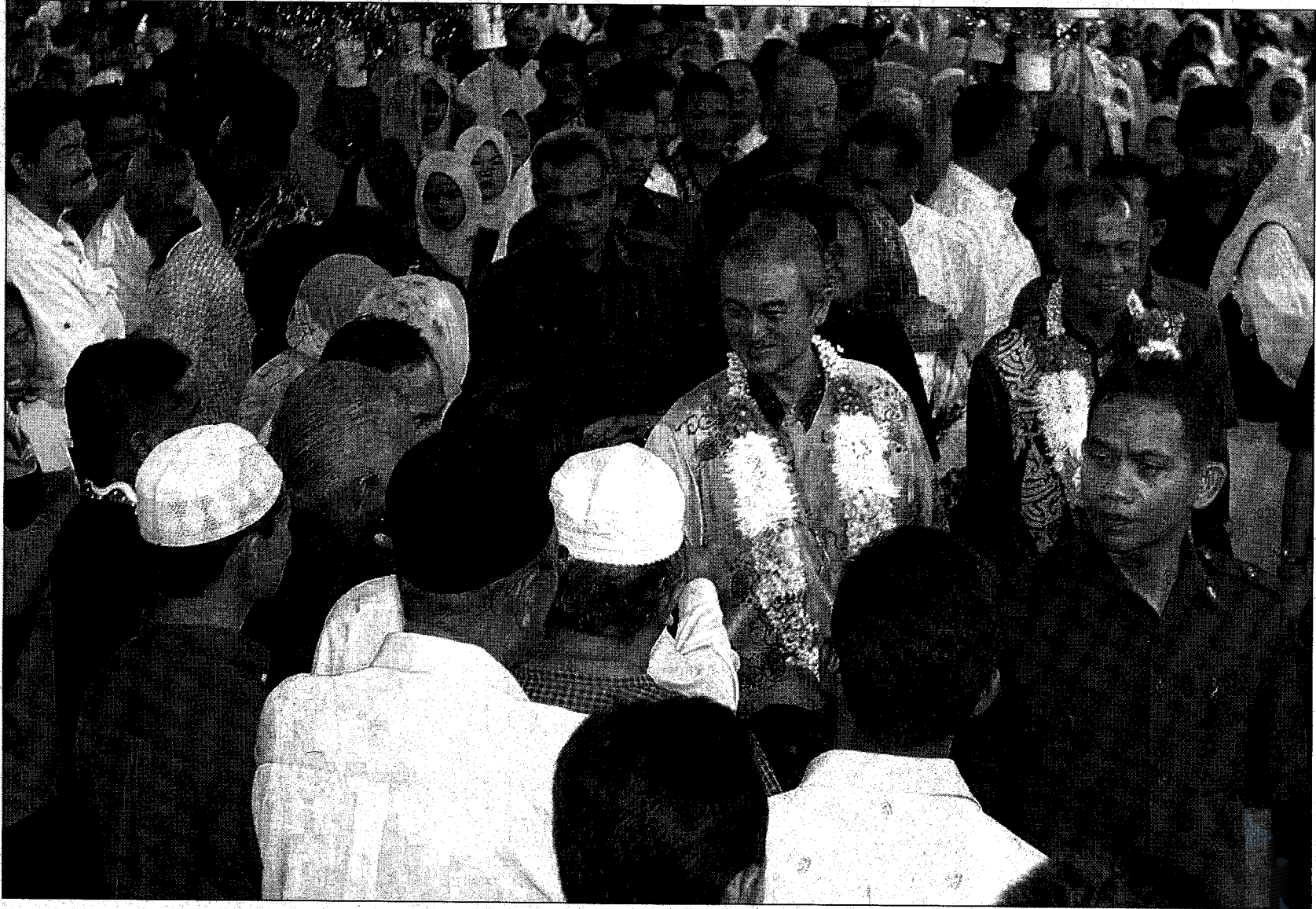
Abdullah, who was in the State on a one-day working visit, later met state Umno and BN leaders at Umno headquarters here.

The Prime Minister, in emphasising the responsibility of BN elected representatives, said the word "mandate" was inadequate when describing the support given to the coalition during the general election.

"I prefer to use the word 'trust' (*amanah*) when describing the support given to us by the rakyat, compared to the word 'mandate' or 'support'.

"This is because 'trust' carries a bigger meaning for we who are Muslims, and the word also bears an equal significance for our partners in the component parties of Barisan Nasional who represent the other races and religions.

"The people have given us their trust, so we must prove that we can be trusted."



IN HIGH SPIRITS: Abdullah greeting BN supporters at the thanksgiving ceremony yesterday. — NST picture by Shahrizal Md Noor

Abdullah, referring to his meeting earlier today with Kedah BN elected representatives at Wisma Darulaman, said he reminded them of the Government's emphasis on ensuring

they performed well in their duties.

"I told the elected representatives and executive councillors that they should not merely expect government officers to continuously perform, be-

cause we, the elected representatives, also bear the responsibility to give quality service to the rakyat."

The Prime Minister called upon the BN to have a shared purpose and

a singular agenda, "which is the happiness of the rakyat, their development, and ensuring that the country remains peaceful, prosperous and safe".