

PM: Respect each other and maintain unity

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■ **By M. Hamzah Jamaludin**
hamzah@nst.com.my

TEMERLOH: Respect for each other, regardless of race and religion, is a formula for unity.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was the responsibility of all Malaysians to maintain unity.

"We do not fight because of religion," said Abdullah at the wedding reception for his personal assistant, Mohd Najib Yusuf, in Kampung Bolok near here yesterday.

"When there are different views, we resolve them because

our leaders are very concerned with what is happening."

If Malaysians continued to maintain unity, it would ensure peace and prosperity.

Abdullah hoped Malaysians would preserve their cultures and traditions, especially *muafakat* and *gotong-royong* (co-operation and helping each other), which are practised in villages.

He said the physical development that was taking place should not change the people's culture and way of life. "This is our way of life and I will not feel happy if this tradition dies off."

Najib, 31, is Abdullah's personal assistant at the Putra World Trade Centre, and his bride, Amy Fazlina Abu, 26, works at the Umno Overseas Clubs' secretariat in Kuala Lumpur.

A meet-the-people session was held in conjunction with the *kenduri*, attended by more than 6,000 people.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Temerloh MP Datuk Mohd Sarit Yusoh, and Lanchang State Assemblyman Datuk Mohd Sharkar Shamsudin.

Abdullah said villagers must continue the tradition of helping

others, especially during a wedding feast or a funeral.

"A big *kenduri* like Najib's, for instance, would be possible only if there is co-operation among the villagers. It will not happen if only family members are involved."

Abdullah said the success of the *kenduri* also proved that the villagers were still observing the traditions.

However, he was sad that some people were so busy that they did not even know their neighbours.

"That's why some people cannot share the joy we get during a *kenduri* like this," he said.