Umno ready to wrest K'tan

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POPULAR EVENT: The huge crowd coming out in support of the Prime Minister as he opened Dabong bridge in Kelantan.

KOTA BARU: Umno is ready to regain control of Kelantan from the Opposition, says Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The signs are there for Umno to do well in Kelantan. Most importantly, Kelantan Umno has shown that it is united and willing to sacrifice for the good of the party," he said when launching the Excellence Merger programme at the Poverty Eradication Foundation here yesterday.

The programme is to formalise a scheme under which 12 state Umno liaison committees have adopted 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan.

Abdullah urged Umno members to strive to ensure that the party achieved the ultimate goal, which was to regain control of Kelantan.

"The state has long lagged behind in terms of development and Umno wants to address this issue, not just for political gain but to serve the people of Kelantan," he said.

Malaysia, he added, had developed because of Umno, so the party must survive at all costs to ensure that this development could be sustained.

"Leaders come and go, but Umno remains. New leaders can emerge to contribute to the party's legacy," he said.

Touching briefly on former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Abdullah said he had inherited a united Umno from his predecessor and it was his duty to keep the party united.

As the Prime Minister, he said he practised a consultative policy, allowing all Cabinet ministers and Umno supreme council members as well as Barisan Nasional leaders to express their views.

"Eventually, we will reach a consensus and the decision is final. This approach was applied to the bridge issue," he said.

Earlier Abdullah urged members administration, including ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries, to be totally committed to ensuring success in the implementation of projects.

This was to ensure that the people could benefit from these projects, he said at a gathering of mentris besar, senior federal and state civil servants and community leaders.

Abdullah also hoped that the Multimedia Super Corridor could be rolled out to the east coast and all other parts of the country, noting that to date this had been done only in Johor, Penang and Kedah.

YAYASAN KEPIMPINAN PERDANA