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Abdullah Conferred Honorary Degree By UPM

SERDANG, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was conferred an honorary doctorate in agricultural development by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at its convocation here on Saturday.

The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, in conferring the doctorate on him, said it was in recognition of Abdullah's service and contribution in developing the country, especially his visionary move in making the agricultural sector the third engine for economic growth.

"The government's recognition of UPM as a centre of educational excellence under Tun's leadership is proof of his seriousness in having a new agricultural sector rich with knowlege and technology," he said.

He hoped that Abdullah would continue to contribute towards the development of the society and country in the future.

Abdullah said after the ceremony that he hoped to see more big companies participating in the agricultural sector and sub-sectors.

"We have to farm on a large and commercial scale. If we are happy with only produce from small farms we will not make it big," he said.

He said the agricultural sector not only generated income and new wealth but was also the best way to raise the standard of living of the poor and encourage the rural folk to stay put and not migrate to the towns.

"We must revive this sector by encouraging participation from the young besides injecting a new spirit and thinking and a new paradigm related to agriculture," he added.

He also said that new biotechnology-based agriculture including the fields of pharmaceauticals, cosmetics and food supplements had big potential as a revenue earner.

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