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ABDULLAH-UMNO
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86 (P)
TAIPING, APRIL 20 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI TODAY SAID TODAY NO UMNO MEMBER WANTED PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TO STEP DOWN DESPITE CRITICISMS OF THE LEADER BY OUTSIDERS.

HE SAID THAT GENERALLY, UMNO AND BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) MEMBERS STILL REQUIRED THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP.

THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL, HE ADDED, HAD EXPRESSED ITS SOLID AND UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP FOR THE BENEFIT AND GOOD OF ALL.

OPENING THE BUKIT GANTANG UMNO DIVISION DELEGATES MEETING AT CHANGKAT JERING, DATUK ABDULLAH WHO IS EDUCATION MINISTER SAID SPECULATIONS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD STEP DOWN AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION WERE MADE BY SOME PEOPLE WHO PURPORTEDLY BASED THEIR +PREDICTION+ ON A PAST INCIDENT IN WHICH THE COUNTRY AND UMNO UNDERWENT A CHANGE IN THE LEADERSHIP BECAUSE OF AN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE
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DATUK ABDULLAH STRESSED THAT SUCH SPECULATIONS COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP WAS STILL NEEDED AND THERE WAS NO REASON FOR HIM TO STEP DOWN.

ON THE COMING GENERAL ELECTION, HE SAID THE BN, PARTICULARLY UMNO, WAS NOT FRIGHTENED OF FACING IT BECAUSE ITS EXCELLENT RECORD OF SERVICE AND RESPONSIBILITY HAD BEEN PROVEN AND ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY SHOWED THAT THE PROCESS AND SYSTEM OF ELECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN A DEMOCRATIC, FAIR AND HONOURABLE MANNER.

THE RULING GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT IT WAS THROUGH THE ELECTIONS THAT THE PEOPLE COULD EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR ITS POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES. -- MORE
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THE GOVERNMENT HAD SUCCEEDED IN DISCHARGING THE RESPONSIBILITIES ENTRUSTED TO IT LIKE ENSURING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS, IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ERADICATING POVERTY.

HE SAID ONLY THE BN WAS CAPABLE OF CHAMPIONING THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE COMMUNITIES WHILE THE OTHER PARTIES TENDED TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ONLY PARTICULAR COMMUNITIES.

ON CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION, HE SAID THAT AFTER A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE CANDIDATES, NO QUARTER SHOULD DISPUTE IT AND MAKE IT AN ISSUE AS THIS WOULD AFFECT THE CHANCES OF THE CANDIDATES.
-- BERNAMA
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