

R E164 AAE
ABDULLAH-PM
SM

TELUK INTAN, SEPT 11 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI TODAY DISMISSED ALLEGATIONS THAT THE PRIME MINISTER IS BECOMING A DICTATOR, SAYING IT IS NOT TRUE HE MAKES DECISIONS ARBITRARILY.

DATUK ABDULLAH, FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER, SAID HE KNOWS DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD PERSONALLY AS A LEADER AND +I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM EXHIBIT ANY TENDENCY OF BECOMING A DICTATOR.+

HE DENIED DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MADE DECISIONS WITHOUT THE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES.

IN FACT, SEVERAL PROPOSALS MADE BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT CABINET MEETINGS WERE DEFERRED OR DROPPED BECAUSE THEY DID NOT GET THE AGREEMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS, HE SAID AT A DIALOGUE WITH THE PEOPLE AT KAMPUNG SUNGAI TUNGKU HERE.

DATUK ABDULLAH SAID HOWEVER THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE A FORCEFUL PERSON DIFFICULT TO DISSUADE WHEN PUTTING ACROSS HIS VIEWS OR ARGUMENTS. BUT THIS WAS BECAUSE THE POINTS HE BROUGHT UP WERE CONCRETE AND CONTAINED MANY GOOD IDEAS. -- MORE
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ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S READINESS TO MEET FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM FOR TALKS AIMED AT THE REUNIFICATION OF THE MALAYS, HE SAID THIS SHOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED BY ANYONE.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER'S DOORS WERE ALWAYS OPEN TO DISCUSSIONS TO RE-UNITE THE MALAYS AND HE HAD NEVER CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT THIS. -- BERNAMA
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