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Abdullah: Take action against those spreading lies

ACTION must be taken against those who spread lies about party leaders, failing which the problem will assume serious proportions and cause damage to Umno, party vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

Those responsible should be dragged to court to put an end to their mischief, he added.

Abdullah said he sympathised with party deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who had been slandered. "These malicious lies, if left unchecked, will have an impact on Anwar, our future leader."

Abdullah said there would be supreme council elections next year and if slandering of leaders was left unchecked, lies would be churned out against certain leaders. Calling on Umno members to unite, he said only through unity in the party could any threat that could split the ranks be eliminated.

He said he was pleased to note the support expressed by the delegates for the leaders to address the current economic problems affecting the nation.

He was glad attempts by outside forces, including the foreign media, to undermine the leadership had failed because of the unity shown by members.

Abdullah, who is the Foreign Minister, said party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had worked hard to garner support from other countries in the Government's effort to resolve the economic problems.

"Leaders of foreign Governments have given him their support, especially on the need for a reform in the international financial system. The support was a slap in the face of the foreign media which had initially rebuked our Prime Minister's call for reformation."

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