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Abdullah-Deputy

PRESENT UMNO STRUCTURE JUST FINE- ABDULLAH BADAWI

ALOR GAJAH, Melaka, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- The present Umno structure is just fine and there is no need to abolish the provision for a deputy president in the party, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"The Umno hierarchy with a president, deputy president and three vice-presidents is fine and the provision for a deputy president is not a new addition," he told reporters after oiling the election machinery at the Selandar Parliamentary constituency here.

The provision for a deputy president had been part and parcel of the Umno constitution from the outset and in no way had jeopardised the party, he said when commenting on a proposal from former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba that the post of Umno deputy president be abolished to prevent disunity arising from contests to the post.

Tun Ghafar had instead proposed that two more people be elected vice presidents bringing the number of elected veeps to five.

Abdullah said the important thing was that Umno politics should not go beyond the brink and members elected to party posts should understand and be conscious of their duties and responsibilities.

"The problem arises when certain actions deviate from one's role and responsibilities. The problem is not with the party structure ...it is with individuals," Abdullah said.

On the crude and harsh statements reportedly made by leaders of the so called Malaysian Peoples Justice Movement (Gerak) against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at its ceramahs, Abdullah said this was no good.

"We can expound our strong and differing views but we should be courteous and not breach the laws of etiquette," he said.

Abdullah also said a landslide victory for the Barisan Nasional in the next general election was important as the government would need strong support in Parliament.

He said it would be difficult for the government to act if the BN did not have a two-thirds majority in Parliament and would be a weak government like the ones in other countries.

"We will work hard for victory," he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, Terengganu Menteri Besar and State Umno Chief Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said the present system in Umno should be retained and any problem arising could be resolved.

In struggling for Umno, members should not race to reach the top as this would pose problems to them, he said.

"We should not run away from problems but stand up and face them," he said.

There were bound to be problems as life would be dull if everything was plain sailing, he added.

Kelantan Umno deputy chief Datuk Annuar Musa also felt that abolishing the post of deputy president would not resolve problems.

-- BERNAMA

ABY AAM