

07 JUN 1998

Abdullah-Veteran

DON'T QUESTION INTENTION OF UMNO VETERANS, SAYS ABDULLAH

SUNGAI PETANI, June 7 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today urged party members not to question the intention of Umno veterans in helping the government to tell the people about the country's economy.

He said there was no need to speculate about it as the group's intention was only to work together with the government on the matter.

"They still have the influence and their views respected," he told reporters after opening a motivation camp of Kepala Batas Umno Youth at Pantai Merdeka, near here.

He was commenting on report that some 200 Umno veterans led by former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Abdul Ghafar Baba would meet Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on June 13 to find out more about the country's economic situation.

Abdullah said he was happy that the Umno veterans had come forward to help the government in explaining the situation to the people.

Asked to comment on the crisis in DAP, he said it was the result of nepotism in the party.

If such a thing had happened in Umno, all hell would have broken loose, he said.

Two days ago, DAP suspended vice-chairman Liew Ah Kim and treasurer Fung Ket Wing while Wee Choo Keong was removed as national publicity secretary for criticising the party's leadership.

"DAP leaders also said that the crisis would not erode people's support to the party as there is no other credible opposition party in the country," he said.

Abdullah said the statement seemed to say that the people had no choice but to support DAP even though it practised nepotism.

--BERNAMA

AHM ABG