

13 SEP 1998

Abdullah-Reform

REFORM MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY ANWAR NOT A NEW THING- ABDULLAH

MELAKA, Sept 13 (Bernama) --- Umno Vice President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the reform movement launched by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has in fact been implemented by the present government and is not something new.

"This is not a new matter as we have been implementing this all this while," he told reporters after briefing Umno leaders here on the current issues in the country. Melaka Chief Minister and State Umno Chief Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin was also present.

Abdullah said this when asked to comment on the "Permatang Pauh Declaration" launched yesterday by Anwar who is the Member of Parliament for Permatang Pauh in Pulau Pinang.

The seven-point declaration was the basis of his reform movement to correct what Anwar called irregularities happening in the country.

Abdullah said the government had no intention of enriching certain people as the people as a whole were given wide opportunities.

"They can grasp these opportunities according to their several abilities. However we do acknowledge that we cannot achieve what we want 100 per cent -- justice, equitable distribution of wealth and riches."

Abdullah said the various policies such as the New Economic Policy were the same as the one contained in the declaration.

Replying to a reporter, Abdullah said the sacking of Anwar was a blessing as his moral misconduct was detected during the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"What if Dr Mahathir was no longer at the helm...the risks are immense."

Fortunately Dr Mahathir came to know of the bad morals of Anwar, which have tarnished his integrity as a leader, while he was still the Prime Minister with strong influence and still needed by Umno, he said.

Dr Mahathir had to take the necessary action which could not be delayed, he added.

-- BERNAMA

NO WAT AAM