

14/11/1999

Abdullah: People free to seek change in government

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - If the people want a change in the government, that is their democratic right and no one can stop them, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said the Barisan Nasional was chosen by the people and from the days it was known as Parti Perikatan (the Alliance Party and predecessor of BN), it had served the people without fear or favour.

"Each time an election is held, the people are clear about their priorities and had chosen BN as the ruling government.

"We are confident of the people's decision making abilities and have nothing to fear," he said during a meet-the-people session at Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan (C) Selayang Baru today.

Also present were 4B Youth Movement president Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam, Selayang Member of Parliament Datuk Chan Kong Choy and Selayang Umno acting chief Datuk Ahmad Bahari Abdul Rahman.

Abdullah said there was no racism in the country as evident from the unity among the races.

"The people can judge for themselves - the employment rate, safety, progress and harmony enjoyed under the BN Government.

"Proof of the Government's successful rule is seen all around and as far as we are concerned, there is no cause for worry," he said.

He said many had criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the methods adopted to kickstart the economy.

"The criticism backfired when the country bounced back stronger than ever without any assistance from outside," he added.

Abdullah urged the people not to be shaken by the lies and rumours spread by the Opposition and to be confident in facing the election.

"We have to defend our rights and freedom, and the BN is confident that the people would be able to assess for themselves who should rule the country."

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