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Abdullah calls on people to vote wisely, support BN

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KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Advising the people of Sabah to vote wisely in the March 12-13 State election, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said a situation in which none of the contesting parties could win a clearcut majority must be avoided.

Speaking at a meet-the-people session here, the Deputy Prime Minister said the implications would be serious if none of the contesting parties could form the State Government on their own.

He said if such a situation arises, parties with just a few seats will make unreasonable demands to the party which has the most, in exchange for their support.

"It would be difficult for the various parties to co-operate and come to a compromise in ruling the State as they have different election manifestos."

Calling on the people to rally behind the Barisan Nasional because of its proven track record, he said: "We must ensure that the winning party obtains sufficient seats to form a stable State Government."

Besides the BN, the opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah and parti Bersekutu are also contesting in all the 48 constituencies.

"The people of Sabah should support the BN as it could bring together the various communities in Sabah under one umbrella," Abdullah said.

He said frequent change in Government should be avoided as it was detrimental to development efforts.

Stressing that Sabah was still lagging behind the other States, he said the BN should be allowed to continue governing the State so that it could complete the task of hastening economic development.

Reiterating that the Federal Government had no intention to take away State rights, Abdullah said regular consultation between State and Federal leaders must not be misconstrued as interference.

He said efforts to pull Malaysia out of the current economic crisis would be stunted if the people did not support the Government.

"The Federal leadership under the able guidance of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had been working hard to speed up economic recovery," he said, adding that economic analysts had predicted that Malaysia would be the first to come out of the crisis.

The meet-the-people session was organised by the SAPP in support of the BN candidates for Likas and Sembulan Datuk Yong Teck Lee and Datuk Chau Chin Tang respectively.

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