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Abdullah-Umno

ADHERENCE TO AL-QURAN ENSURES UMNO'S STRENGTH

KUALA TERENGGANU, April 23 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Umno gained strength in its struggles as its members adhered to the teachings of Al-Quran.

Umno is aware that religious obligations must be fulfilled, he said when opening the Kuala Terengganu Umno division delegates' conference here today.

" We have proven that what has been done so far is to propagate Islam in our country and to provide a better position for muslims in this country. This success (of Umno) cannot be challenged by any other parties. Even PAS cannot compete with us in this matter," he said.

Abdullah said Umno need to continue what it had been doing thus far with full dedication and understanding to attain the desired objectives of its struggles.

" Umno faced all sorts of problems and challenges in its struggles spanning over half a century but we have succeeded in overcoming them by steadfastly holding to the principles of our struggles," he said.

He said when Datuk Onn Jaafar left Umno bringing along with him many of his supporters who held high positions, many feared that Umno was finished but Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra managed to lead the party till the country attained Independence and brought prosperity to the country and people.

Similarly when Parti Melayu Semangat 46 was set up, the party members eventually returned to Umno's fold to make Umno even stronger than before, said Abdullah, who is an Umno vice-president.

"Umno's noble struggles for Islam, the country and race will be supported not only by the Malays but also majority of Malaysians," he said.

Abdullah also said Malaysia's economy had recovered and many groups particularly foreigners who had earlier criticised the country's recovery measures taken by the government had begun to see effects of the measures.

" Today, economic experts and foreign economic analytical agencies which condemned us before now understood and agree that the first country to come out of the Southeast Asian economic crisis is Malaysia as a result of implementing the measures," he said.

Abdullah said many people were initially worried over the measures introduced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and some had given up hope that the country's economy could be turned around more so former Finance Minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) was no longer in the Cabinet.

" But it has been proven and cannot be denied that the measures introduced by Dr Mahathir after Anwar was expelled had shown positive results," he said.

He attributed the success to the government's seriousness and the people's unwavering support to the government.

-- BERNAMA

SBJ MAI TS