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Abdullah-Stability

ANY ATTEMPT TO CAUSE CHAOS SHOULD BE OPPOSED, SAYS ABDULLAH

MELAKA, March 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today any attempt to cause chaos in the country must be opposed because the people want to continue to see Malaysia enjoying peace and stability.

He said this was important following the emergence of certain groups who go around the villages criticising the government leaders to incite the people to hate the leaders.

"Their aim is to break up the unity that has existed all this while.

"They will not stop as long as the people do not hate the nation's leaders, but believe me, they will not succeed," he said when launching the national-level 27th Rela Day 1999 celebration in Sungai Udang, here.

Abdullah also opened the southern region volunteer corps' RM7.4 million training centre.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, reminded the Rela members who number more than 260,000 that they could not side with any political party or group that opposed the government.

He said that as a component of the country's security machinery they must have strong spirit, especially in facing threats in the form of groups that are prepared to incite the people to assassinate the country's leaders.

The matter was highlighted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said last Wednesday that a tape was being circulated which contained lies and calls to Muslims to assassinate the country's leaders, including himself.

Abdullah said that when the country faced the communist threat in the past, Rela members had given a lot of information on the movements of the communists which enabled the security forces to subdue the communists.

"Although we no longer face the communist threat, the contributions of Rela forces are still needed because the task of defending the nation lies in the hands of the people themselves, besides the security forces and the police," he said.

Abdullah thanked the Rela members on behalf of the government for helping to tackle the illegal immigrant and drug addiction problems and for providing social services like putting up basic amenities in the villages and donating blood.

He called on the state governments and government agencies to make use of the Rela services to make a success of development programmes and efforts at poverty eradication. This was a cost-saving measure, he said.

On the economic situation which is beginning to show signs of recovery, thanks to the government's efforts, Abdullah said the people must continue to place their confidence in the government and its efforts to improve the country's economic performance.

At the function held in conjunction with his half-day visit to Melaka, Abdullah also launched Rela's new philosophy towards producing knowledgeable and effective members in line with their role as the country's third line of defence and as an auxiliary force.

It also states that the Rela forces must voluntarily take up welfare work in times of disasters and participate in development programmes through involvement in economic projects.

-- BERNAMA

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