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Abdullah-Campaign

DON'T USE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS TO SOW HATRED, SAYS ABDULLAH

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today urged the political parties not to use the campaigning for the general election to sow hatred.

He said such acts would not benefit the nation because the people would rather hear views from political leaders on what their parties would do for their wellbeing and the country's future.

"We do not want the people to vote, motivated by hatred and prejudice," he told reporters after opening the fourth Anxi World Convention, here.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said the political parties should not sow hatred between the people and the government or among the leaders themselves.

"Suffice it to talk about what we want to do, that's what the people want, not for us to show how good we are at berating others," he said.

"Malaysians have considerable experience in facing elections. I believe the people's wisdom will determine the success of any party contesting in the election," he added.

Abdullah said political campaigns were not meant to show who was good at berating and political parties must not go overboard in their campaigns.

He said the authorities would monitor the conduct of the election campaigns to ensure peace and smooth running of the election.

He also hoped that the political parties would not use foreign speakers to help their campaigns.

Abdullah, who is also chairman of the BN manifesto committee, said the first draft of the manifesto was ready and he would discuss it with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his views.

"After that, we will discuss further with the (component) party heads so that we can really understand and make contributions to the manifesto," he said.

The manifesto was related to the BN's commitment to continue its struggle for unity among the people and national development which were a BN tradition, he said.

The slogan for the manifesto would be announced together with the manifesto at an appropriate time, He added.

-- BERNAMA

AFY JK