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DPM warns against instilling hatred

GENTING HIGHLANDS, Thurs. - Political parties are today advised not to turn the general election into a "hate campaign" in their effort to win over the people, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

"We do not want the campaign to result in the people going against each other and the Government, and leaders being pitted among themselves," said the Deputy Prime Minister at a Press conference after opening the fourth World Ann Koai convention here.

He said the practice of spreading and instilling hatred must be stopped. People would appreciate more if political leaders were to delve on what they could do for the betterment of the country.

"We do not want voters to go to the polls driven by prejudice and feelings of hatred."

The country would be holding its 10th general election following the dissolution of Parliament today.

On the Opposition inviting foreign speakers to speak at their ceramah, Abdullah said: "Sometimes, a lot of things are done to ensure victory but there should be some limit to that. Do not go overboard.

"There is no need to enlist foreign help to campaign as they are not responsible for the country."

On the Barisan Nasional manifesto, Abdullah, who heads a committee in charge of drafting the document, said the first draft was ready.

"I will have further discussion with Prime Minister and BN chairman (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) and other component parties to get their views before the manifesto is announced."

Abdullah said the manifesto would be made known as soon as it is ready.

On the contents, he said it touched on BN's commitment and struggle in developing the country, bringing progress to the people and enhancing unity.

"This has been the tradition of BN since it came into being. I think it is important that it is made known that our commitment is continuous and for the benefit of not only BN but all Malaysians."

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