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DPM: People able to make own assessments

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail could go anywhere she liked and the Government would not stop her.

"Likewise, she can say whatever she wants. The people know and are able to make their own assessments," Abdullah said when asked whether the Government intended to stop her from going overseas to seek support for Parti Keadilan Nasional.

Abdullah said this after a luncheon at Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa's residence at Seri Puri in Bukit Marak.

Abdullah added that there were vast differences between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's leadership and former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos.

"There is no basis at all to compare Dr Mahathir with Marcos," he said.

Abdullah said the Prime Minister is the leader of a duly elected Government and Dr Mahathir has proven his capability in bringing the country to great heights, especially in economic recovery.

"Apart from that, the democratic institutions in the country are able to function well, there is no disturbance whatsoever and elections are held within the stipulated period.

"The people have the right to freedom of speech, including criticising the Government," he said.

Abdullah said this following comparisons made by Dr Wan Azizah between Dr Mahathir's leadership and Ferdinand Marcos'.

The lunch was also attended by heads of Federal Government departments and agencies in Kelantan and State Barisan Nasional and Umno leaders.

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