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Abdullah-Azizah

GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO BLOCK WAN AZIZAH

KOTA BAHARU, Mei 1 (Bernama) -- The government has no intention of blocking Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail from leaving the country to seek political support.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Wan Azizah's actions would not jeopardise the country as the people knew how to assess what the opposition party leader would do.

"Not necessary, she can go wherever she wants, she is a Malaysian citizen who is free, (she) has a passport, so she can go anywhere. People want to give her a visa, we need not stop it," he told reporters after attending a luncheon with Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders at Sri Puri, Peringat, here today.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, was commenting on Dr Wan Azizah's visit to the Philippines where she criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and compared him to former Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos.

He said it was not the culture of Malaysians to go abroad and express dissatisfaction with what was happening in the country.

"Going abroad, talking about things which are untrue, this is not the way of Malaysians, if (she) wants to, then talk (about it) at home (in the country)," he said.

Abdullah, who is also Umno vice president, described Dr Wan Azizah's comparison of Dr Mahathir with Ferdinand Marcos as unfounded and extreme.

"How can Azizah compare the Prime Minister to Marcos, she does not understand the actual situation in the Philippines and she does not know about Malaysian Politics," he said.

He said Umno and the BN had championed the cause of the Malaysian people up to a stage that we could be proud of where the process of democracy went smoothly enabling the people to determine their future through the proper process.

Asked on the government's latest move against the newspaper Harakah which was alleged to have published unsubstantiated reports, Abdullah said the government had issued reminders as well as the conditions which the management of the newspaper had to adhere to.

"I don't have to talk about future action here," he said when asked about the action to be taken if the newspaper continued to ignore the reminders and conditions given to them.

Earlier, speaking at the delegates meeting of the Peringat Umno division, Abdullah urged the people to act based on principles blessed by Islam.

He said Islam required its followers to do good deeds and to steer away from anything that would bring about negative results.

In this context, he urged the people to be thankful of the prosperity and peace that the country was enjoying and called on them to ensure that this peace and prosperity was maintained.

"Thus let's preserve the power that we have and do not allow foreign powers who are envious of Malaysia's success to colonise us," he said.

--BERNAMA

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