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Abdullah-Order

IMPORTANT TO KEEP ORDER AND STABILITY, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that it is important that order is kept and stability maintained in the country.

"I think this is what all Malaysians would want. I can't imagine anyone who doesn't want that," he said in response to a question on the government's preparation in anticipation of the judgment in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's corruption trial to be delivered by the High Court here tomorrow.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the multimedia CD-ROM called "Mahathir: CEO Malaysia Inc", here.

On the proposed gathering called by Anwar's supporters, Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said he had heard all sorts of rumours about it but declined to elaborate.

"We'll have to wait for tomorrow," he said.

A CNN journalist asked the deputy prime minister whether the trial had had an impact on Malaysia's prestige.

To this, Abdullah said: "I don't see how you can relate this to the prestige of Malaysia. I think we still enjoy a good prestige, we are doing well economically."

He said Malaysia had many friends as evidenced by its decisive victory to secure a United Nations Security Council non-permanent seat even when the country was levelled with a lot of criticisms over what was happening locally.

On the foreign media's speculation that Anwar would be found guilty tomorrow, he said the foreign media seemed to place importance on their own views.

Abdullah also said that Malaysia enjoyed political freedom and Malaysians could decide the government they wanted through elections.

He said Malaysians also needed to change their attitude to face internal and outside challenges en route to fulfilling the objectives of Vision 2020 to make Malaysia a developed country by that year.

-- BERNAMA

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