

03 APR 1999

Abdullah-Slander

MAKE ACCUSATIONS OPENLY, SAYS ABDULLAH

KEPALA BATAS, April 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today challenged those who like to accuse others to do so openly.

The Deputy Prime Minister said they should come forward and make their accusations openly, giving their real names, to ensure healthy democratic practice in the country.

They should not resort to slandering and making up stories, which could incite hatred, in the name of politics, he told a news conference after chairing the Bertam Umno branch meeting, here. He is also chairman of the Kepala Batas Umno division.

He described those who dared not use their real names when making accusations against others as cowards because they abused the mass media like magazines, newspapers and television and the Internet to cause anxiety among the public.

He said the democratic process should be used to provide information and clarification to the people and not to give false information or cook up stories to mislead the people.

Earlier, Abdullah urged the people to continue to support the government so that its measures to revive the economy could proceed smoothly.

He said the government would table a White Paper on the country's current economic situation at the Dewan Rakyat sitting which starts Monday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would also table a review on the Seventh Malaysia Plan to keep the people informed on the success of the plan so far, he added.

-- BERNAMA

AHM JK