

19 JAN 1999

Abdullah-Peace

OPEN HOUSE VISITS SHOW WISH TO LIVE IN PEACE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian public's practice of visiting open houses on occasions such as Hari Raya Aidilfitri indicates their wish to live in peace and to maintain good relations with each other.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this unique Malaysian practice should be continued for posterity.

"We hope this very good trait can be nurtured so that Malaysians will always live in peace and have a respect for each other," he said at his Hari Raya open house function at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

"We want Malaysia to remain peaceful and harmonious always so that whatever we do will be successful."

Abdullah said he was touched and happy at the large number of people who turned up to wish him and his family Selamat Hari Raya.

Some 20,000 people turned up at his Hari Raya open house function here held between 10am and 5pm.

Among those present were foreign diplomats, high-ranking government officials, religious leaders, Cabinet ministers including MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and opposition leader in the Dewan Rakyat Lim Kit Siang.

Abdullah, who said he also saw a huge turn out at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's open house this morning, said it is the government's wish to see every Malaysian, irrespective of race and religion, to live in peace and harmony.

"This has made Malaysia a successful nation," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's statement recently that Abdullah's appointment as Deputy Prime Minister has calmed the political situation in Malaysia, he said he was grateful if his appointment did bring about such a better situation.

Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, declined to comment on who or when a new Inspector-General of Police will be appointed to replace Tan Sri Rahim Noor.

Deputy IGP Tan Sri Norian Mai has now assumed the duties of the IGP.

He also said no decision has been made on the call to set up an independent commission to investigate injuries sustained by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

-- BERNAMA

RV/MSL kgo thg