

02 SEP 1999

Abdullah-Cruel

PAK LAH SAYS THOSE WHO LABEL MAHATHIR AS PHAROAH ARE CRUEL

BALING, Sept 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi has described those who criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as "mahafiraun" or the great "Pharoah" as cruel.

"I have frequently read in the internet, and find criticisms and humiliating remarks made on the Prime Minister such as that...and it's not proper, and I find their remarks as cruel and irresponsible," he said in a speech after a "tahlil" or prayer gathering at Madrasah Kampung Charok Puteh Siong, near here tonight.

Earlier, he performed evening or "Maghrib" prayers with about 500 residents of the kampung. Also present was Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Abdul Hamid Othman.

He said those who slandered the Prime Minister in that manner were also considered rude, because we should not humiliate him to that extent.

Among the Muslim countries, Dr. Mahathir is highly respected and praised but there are a small group of Malaysians who are prepared to insult him.

For example, he said, Dr Mahathir is one of the top leaders in South-east Asia which prompted the Saudi Arabian government to honour him with the Faisal award which had never been received by any other leader in this region.

In addition, Abdullah said many people had been seen to misunderstand the situation lately by saying that he was too protective of Dr Mahathir as though he was trying to win favour.

"As his deputy, I feel that his leadership is without fault, although he is very firm and bold in facing any situation," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir has never forced anyone to listen to him and is willing to hear the opinions of others.

"For example, in the cabinet meeting, if Dr Mahathir did not get majority support after presenting his case, he would accept the fact without forcing us to support him," Abdullah said.

Later, Abdullah performed "Isyak" or late evening prayers led by Abdul Hamid.

--BERNAMA

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