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Umno-Winding (Abdullah)

UMNO REMAINS STRONG AND UNITED- ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 20 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said today the Umno General Assembly has proved that the party is still strong and united and not affected by the Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim issue.

The assembly had demonstrated the members' unity, comradeship, willingness and determination to continue the struggle for Islam, the race and the country.

"There was talk among those who dislike us that because Anwar was not around this time, the assembly will be dull or sidetracked by arguments over the Anwar issue."

"These prophets of doom also said there will be a lukewarm response to the policy address of Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," said Abdullah, the party vice-president who is performing the duties of the Umno Deputy President.

However, the entire nation saw the biggest conference of Umno members proving to one and all that the party was still robust.

The convention showed the unanimous wish of the delegates that Dr Mahathir should continue leading the party, he said when winding up the debate on the president's policy address on the last day of the general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

"Umno members remain ready to obey the leadership's instructions and not oppose... are still ready to face any challenge and will not accept defeat."

Abdullah, who is Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, expressed his appreciation to the police for helping to ensure the peace and security of the country particularly during the recent street demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur.

He regretted that young people were involved in street demonstrations near Kampung Baru and in the Chow Kit area -- venues of the bloody incident on May 13, 1969.

"The Police with their wisdom, patience and firmness in discharging their duties and responsibilities were able to stop the demonstrations and riots from spreading beyond Kuala Lumpur without any loss of life," he said.

He hoped Allah SWT would richly reward the police for their patience and determination to carry out their duties in the face of curses and insults such as being labelled dogs and pigs.

"If not for the police and military who discharged their duties with such patriotism, we will not enjoy peace and security in this country," he said.

Abdullah said many members of the security forces were killed fighting the communist terrorists or maimed, in the cause of the nation, when they accidentally stepped on boobytraps laid by the terrorists.

"They like us...loved the country. We work for the development of the country, they work to ensure peace and security...peace and security are the greatest gifts in this country, which enable to work and worship Allah."

-- BERNAMA  
AFY RON AAM