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Abdullah-Power

UMNO REPRESENTS THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE

GUAR CEMPEDAK, April 30 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said UMNO is actually the power of the people because the party commands the support of the people that it succeeded in forming the government of the country since independence.

He said Umno which leads the country's administration had been given support by the majority of the people in every general election and this reflects that Umno has the blessing of the Malaysian people.

"If we talk about the power of the people, what is the meaning of the peoples' power. The peoples' power is our success in bringing changes to develop the country," he told reporters after opening the delegates meeting of the Yan Umno division, here today.

He disclosed this when asked to comment on the statement by Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail in Manila which stated that "the peoples' support for me and the Keadilan party is the Malaysian version of peoples' power" and drew its similarity to the fall of the Philippines former president Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Abdullah said Malaysians were now more prosperous and happy than before with more opportunities for development for the people.

"All this was achieved through our struggles for the people and it proves that the power that we have is power used in a positive manner and not to damage or destroy anything," he said.

Commenting further on the action by Wan Azizah, the wife of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who criticised the national leadership abroad, Abdullah said the Keadilan party president was trying to seek inspiration and support from abroad to further the party's success and struggles.

He said the party's success did not depend on inspiration from abroad, the party's success came from the support of the people and this support would ensure success leading to the formation of the government.

"Actually Wan Azizah does not understand the actual situation in the country, we are not like the Philippines and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not like Marcos," he said.

Meanwhile in his speech, the Deputy Prime Minister said Umno's success was based on its boldness in facing whatever challenges.

As the largest party in the country, he said, Umno had a major role to play, that is, to continue administering the country to enable Muslims to uplift their standard of living.

He was certain that if Umno continued to lead the country, given the rapid development now, Malaysia would become the most advanced country among member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Among the OIC countries -- compared in terms of development, outlook, political strength and peace -- there would come a time when Malaysia would become the first country within the organisation to emerge as a developed nation.

"This is all possible through the spirit of consensus and determination in facing obstacles," he said.

He also said there were still much work to be done and in this context the power held by Umno now must be preserved.

-- BERNAMA

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