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Abdullah-Objective

UMNO MEMBERS MUST MEET OBJECTIVE OF PRE-INDEPENDENCE LEADERS

TAPAH, May 2 (Bernama) -- Every Umn member should preserve the party's strength to meet the objective of its pre-Independence leaders to establish a sovereign, happy, safe and prosperous nation, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"Don't let's disappoint them until they think that the Umno they left behind is no longer strong like the Umno of old which fought the British until Independence was achieved," he said.

"We must strive to give meaning to the word independence...not only free from foreign rule (but) also free from other powers that want to undermine our economy or control us through other means," he said when opening the Tapah Umno delegates meeting, here.

"What is the meaning of independence if we are influenced by outsiders who have their own agenda? The most important meaning of independence is that we are master of our own nation and successful in very field," he said.

Abdullah, who is also Umno vice-president, said he was confident that Umno would succeed in perpetuating its strength and capability to enhance national development and the credibility of the Malays.

"We must become a race that is capable of competing with the strongest in the world and not choose the weak to show off our prowess," he said.

Abdullah said Umno would stick to the approach of a consensus among component parties in the Barisan Nasional to achieve the objectives of the party.

Umno had shown its appreciation to the other parties representing the other races in jointly fighting for the aspiration of the people to achieve success, he said.

He said that before 1969, the Malays' share of the economic pie was less than two per cent but after the implementation of the New Economic Policy, their involvement in all fields had increased.

He also said that Malaysia, under the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had taken a bold stand and not bowed to pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but had instead taken its own measures to improve its economy following the crisis in 1997.

Although Malaysia was initially criticised for its recovery efforts, its economy was now showing signs of recovery, he added.

-- BERNAMA

MR JK