

08 AUG 1999

Abdullah-Preparations

UPGRADE PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTION, STATE BN TOLD

KLANG, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the states should upgrade their preparations to ensure a huge win for the coalition in the coming general election.

He said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as BN chairman, wants a sweeping victory for the BN in the election.

"Let us together prove our capability to secure overwhelming victory as what he is hoping for," he said after the Selangor BN golf tournament in aid of the Kosovo Fund at the Kota Permai Golf and Country Club in Bukit Kemuning, near here.

At the function, Abdullah handed over a cheque for RM50,000 collected at the charity golf tournament, to New Straits Times group editor Ahmad A. Talib for the Kosovo Fund.

He said that Dr Mahathir was still not satisfied with preparations in the states as he did not want the BN to be only satisfied with a narrow win in the election.

Abdullah was confident that the people would continue to support the BN based on the performance of the coalition in the past besides the wish of the people who want a stable government led by the BN.

The deputy prime minister said that the people in the country were very fortunate as they live in prosperity, peace and security even though they were from different ethnic, religious and cultural background.

Such a situation could be created because the BN founding fathers had believed that racial unity and goodwill were essential for Malaysia's progress and future.

"They have displayed exemplary leadership, sensitive to the problems faced by the people, working together to assist the people, to safeguard their interest," he said.

The BN, he said, represented the various ethnic groups and adopted a politics of consensus which was ideal for Malaysia whose success had impressed many other countries.

In Malaysia, he said, a situation like in Kosovo did not exist as the country does not harbour prejudice against any race.

"We practised goodwill and cooperation for security, prosperity...our success is really special," he said.

Abdullah congratulated the Selangor BN for organising the charity golf tournament to help the Kosovars, and those who had donated to the Fund.

He was happy over the generosity shown by Malaysians in coming out to help alleviate the sufferings of others.

"We are grateful to Allah for our capability to help those in need...we have opportunities to seek a livelihood and we live in peace and security, helping those who suffer," he said.

Abdullah proposed that the Selangor BN turn the golf tournament into an annual affair for the BN.

Among those who took part in the tournament were Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman.

-- BERNAMA

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