

02 MAY 1999

Abdullah-Azizah

WAN AZIZAH NOW AWARE OF THE PEOPLE'S ANGER, SAYS ABDULLAH

TAPAH, May 2 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Keadilan president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail should have denied reports that she had compared Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad with former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos much earlier.

Abdullah said that Dr Wan Azizah only made the denial when she was aware of the people's anger over the comparison she made in Manila this week.

She now realised she had made a big mistake and the people had been most disturbed by her action, he told reporters after opening the Tapah Umno divisional conference at Dewan Merdeka, here.

He was asked to comment on Dr Wan Azizah's statement in Kota Baharu yesterday that she never made the comparison.

"They are two different people and Dr Mahathir has (made contributions) for the country," Dr Wan Azizah was quoted to have said after a gathering at a house of a Keadilan supporter in Kadok.

"She can say anything...she can always say that she did not say it but we have heard what she has said, that is the important thing," said Abdullah.

"We've heard the local news reports, one after another. What she should have done when the reports first came out is to say that she did not say it. Why wait until she has angered the people before saying that she did not say it," Abdullah said.

He however said that the people could make their own assessment.

-- BERNAMA

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