

23 MAR 2000

Abdullah-Sign

HAND GESTICULATIONS WILL NOT AFFECT BN'S CHANCES- ABDULLAH

MENTAKAB, March 22 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said tonight PAS' distribution of pictures showing the Pahang Menteri Besar making hand gesticulations will not affect the Barisan Nasional's chances in the Sanggang state by-election.

Datuk Seri Adnan Yakob was merely reacting to the abuses and extreme harassment by aggressive PAS supporters, he said.

Abdullah said he himself did not see Adnan gesticulating but on hearing of this he could only sympathise with Adnan.

"I am not surprised as to why he resorted to this," he told reporters after delivering a political talk at Kampung Desa Murni, Kerdau, near here.

He said Adnan was merely reciprocating similar hand signals from PAS supporters and this would have no effect on voter preferences.

This was because there were more important issues which merited attention in this by-election.

PAS today distributed among PAS supporters pictures of Adnan in the act during yesterday's nomination for the Sanggang by-election in Temerloh.

The pictures were also said to have been posted on the Internet.

Meanwhile Adnan explained, "I was reacting to sudden and grave provocation."

"Rudeness begets rudeness...tit for tat," he said.

According to the Menteri Besar PAS, DAP and Keadilan supporters outside the nomination centre had uttered abuses at Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and ridiculed the BN.

"Initially I restrained myself and kept my cool until the PAS supporters resorted to showing finger signs at me and I responded in kind," he said.

--BERNAMA

MNY AAM