

08/10/2000

Payment by year-end

Rosli Zakaria; Azura Abas

SETIU, Sat. - The special payment to fund projects in Terengganu will be released by the end of the year, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the central committee, which held its first meeting recently, has deliberated on the projects to be funded and the formula to channel the special payment.

"Once a decision (on the projects) has been reached, we will have to wait for the response from the State Government and the relevant federal agencies," he told reporters after meeting heads of department and Umno members at Peladang Setiu Agro Resort.

Asked on the amount, Abdullah said it would be based on the value of the projects.

"The point is we will use the payment to support development projects. The people who want development need not worry," he said.

On the appointment of village development and security committees which was labelled as an illegal organisation by the Pas State Government, Abdullah said this was an excuse to prevent the people from giving their co-operation to an agency established to help them.

"It is as if they (the Pas Government) do not want anyone to help the people. It clearly shows that they are anti-development and are against the people," he added.

On a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that he would continue to work for the party to ensure that it receives strong support from the younger generation, Abdullah said it was a sincere statement which showed that he wanted to see the party become stronger.

Earlier, Abdullah said Umno's struggle would never end although it is not part of the ruling party in Terengganu and Kelantan.

"We have to let the people know that there is someone who is willing to fight for them. We should not sulk over the defeat and we should also not take revenge."

He said Umno would always strive to ensure that the image of the religion is upheld and the struggle to ensure that Malays become a successful race and the country's prosperity continues.

He added that whatever approach was taken it was meant to ensure that the Malays become the most successful Muslims in the world and they could project a respectable image of Islam.

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