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UPKO-Message

REVIVAL OF UPKO HELPS TO STRENGTHEN BN IN SABAH, SAYS ABDULLAH

KOTA KINABALU, July 25 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the revival of the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (UPKO) in Sabah had helped to strengthen the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the state.

However, he said, although the BN had become stronger, party members must continue to strive to win the hearts of the people in the state.

"The people must be informed from time to time that only the BN could bring progress (to them)," he said in his message in conjunction with the sixth UPKO congress to be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday.

Abdullah said BN members must always be wary of the ploys by the opposition who were actively spreading lies about the government.

"I urge all Malaysians in Sabah, particularly the Kadazandusun and Murut communities, to continue to support the BN which had been proven to have been successful in implementing development programmes in the country," he said.

UPKO was a Kadazandusun-based party in Sabah which was set up in 1964, but it was dissolved three years later when party members, in the interest of Bumiputera solidarity in general, joined the United Sabah National Organisation (USNO).

UPKO, however, was revived in August last year when a component party of the Sabah BN, Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) led by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, approved an amendment in the party's constitution to revive UPKO. PDS was subsequently known as UPKO.

Meanwhile, chairman of the BN Youth movement Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, in his message in conjunction with the UPKO Youth congress, said the BN Youth movement must be determined in ensuring continuity of the power sharing formula in the country.

"Together, we preserve national harmony by curtailing and rejecting all forms of threats that could jeopardise national solidarity and prosperity," he said.

He was also confident that the younger generation among the Kadazandusun and Murut communities would realise that they must achieve their political strength through UPKO in efforts to continue to remain in the mainstream of national politics.

"The UPKO Youth Movement is an organisation that loves, protects and leads the interest of the Kadazandusun and Murut communities in the BN government. This movement has a major responsibility to assist in interpreting the concept of BN consensus at the state and national level," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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