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Duty to nation `a great responsibility, challenge'

UMNO deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that when the time came for the younger generation to govern the country, they will realise that the BN's policies and effort were the best formula for the nation.

He said the young would then understand that BN was not a power-grabbing institution or a platform for the narrow-minded intention of contesting general elections.

"The young will realise when the time comes for them to govern, that the duty is one of great responsibility and challenge and that the best formula is the BN."

He said the attitude of the younger generation now was different from earlier generations and that they wanted new rights and freedoms that were not heard of before.

"As the BN chairman said earlier, even if there are groups that are not thankful for what BN has done, the coalition would still continue with its efforts because it is confident that what it does is for the good of the country and people.

"We cannot stop just because there is criticism or do something just to be popular. Let what we do be the true and proper thing," Abdullah said in his speech.

He said the younger generation would eventually realise the significance of BN's efforts and politics and that unity was not an easy task to be done in a short time.

He said the BN was not a ladder for personal glory or a bridge to spread foreign ideologies but a political organisation that had a proven philosophy, a clear vision, followed realistic aims, pragmatic programmes and which held fast to the principles of tolerance and consultation.

Abdullah said Umno understood the honour given it to lead the coalition which was united and strong under the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

"It takes a brave and strong leader to lead the Government. A weak person cannot do it," he said.

Abdullah said while Umno struggled for the Malays, it did not compromise on the rights of the other races as enshrined in the Constitution.

He said it was the BN's responsibility to retain power for the good of the people and the coalition was aware that if it abused that power the people would not support it.

"The BN is brave to go to the people every five years or so in a general election as it has a good and successful record," he said.

He said the people must understand that the country had to be peaceful as a pre-condition for progress and development.

He said action would be taken against anyone who threatened the peace and security the country enjoyed, adding that the police were neutral and had the sole function of enforcing the law without bias.

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