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Abdullah-Shahnon

OPPOSITION AGAINST CONSENSUS-SEEKING CONTRARY TO ISLAM, SAYS DPM

PULAU PINANG, March 3 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that opposition against efforts towards "musyawarah" or consensus-seeking is contrary to the teachings of Islam which advocates such an action in matters affecting the lives of the community.

He said that opposing efforts in consensus-seeking was a negative action, more so if the opposition came from a member of PAS which claims that the party was struggling for Islam.

"However, let the people be the judge of what he has stated," said Abdullah when asked to comment on the statement by PAS Sik Member of Parliament Datuk Shahnon Ahmad who is opposed to the unity talks between the top leaders of PAS and Umno.

Abdullah, who is Umno deputy president, said that Islam encourages consensus-seeking among Muslims in matters affecting their lives as talks and discussions would benefit the affected parties.

"That has been our approach. Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked PAS not to impose conditions because if there are problems, when discussions are held, these matters could be raised," he said.

The Umno deputy president said that holding the talks was not a big problem as discussions would be for the benefit of Muslims.

Shahnon has said that the meeting was "totally unnecessary" and that Umno had set a trap for PAS in an attempt to convince the people that Umno was the only hope the Malays have.

Abdullah said that from the statement, Shahnon could be seen as regarding PAS as being in a weak position as he thinks the party could be easily trapped by Umno.

"That is why he is reacting that way, and it is a reasoning which to me is negative as it shows he doesn't want the talks to materialise," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SA RM