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Abdullah-Hamid

RESPECT ABDUL HAMID'S DECISION TO RESIGN, SAYS ABDULLAH

MELAKA, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said all parties should respect Datuk Paduka Dr Abdul Hamid Othman's decision to resign as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

Abdul Hamid was resigning of his own volition to concentrate on matters relating to Islam and the Malay community, the deputy prime minister said when asked to comment on the resignation last night.

Abdullah, who is also Umno deputy president was met by reporters after attending an Aidlifitri meeting organised by the Melaka Umno liaison body at Seri Bendahara, here.

"Abdul Hamid has also discussed with the government leaders and we respect his wishes," he said.

Abdullah said, however, that the resignation did not mean that Abdul Hamid would no longer play a role in the government or party because he was still a senator and an Umno supreme council member.

"We are happy because (he) did not resign from the supreme council or the senatorship...can give views and play a role."

Abdul Hamid, in announcing his resignation yesterday, said he wanted to give more attention to matters relating to Islam and the Malay community and did not want to be bogged down by government duties as a minister.

Abdullah said the role that Abdul Hamid would be playing was important to clear the confusion created by certain parties over the demands of the fardu ain and fardu kifayah (religious of obligations of the individual and the community).

He said the views spread by certain parties that it was enough for the Malays to learn about religion only and nothing else would cause the Muslims to lose out.

"Such views should be eradicated and we hope that Abdul Hamid's ambition will be achieved," he said.

On Abdul Hamid's successor in the cabinet, Abdullah said the decision would be made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

MOZ AKD JK