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BN-Abdullah (Umno)

UMNO NEVER TRIED TO REVOKE NON-MALAYS' RIGHTS, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Umno had never exceeded the provisions in the Federal Constitution and had never attempted to revoke any rights of the non-Malays.

He said in its responsibility to fulfil the needs of the Malays, Umno, the pillar of the 13-member ruling coalition, had never undermined the rights of non-Malays as enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

"Similarly, I believe other parties also adopted the same approach by not trying to reduce what have been the rights of the Malays," he said when winding up the debate on Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's keynote address at the one-day BN Convention which ended here this evening.

He said the approach taken by the Malays and non-Malays was a form of tolerance and consensus reached from mutual understanding.

"If any group played with racial sentiments, stir up racial feelings among the people and as a result of it, the country becomes chaotic, all of us will suffer," said Abdullah, who is Deputy Prime Minister.

He said Umno was aware that the party's actions were closely monitored by the people and certain groups were bent on finding faults with the party.

"The opposition is happy if we do wrong. But for people who understand our struggles to ensure the BN continues to remain in power, they will certainly support our action," he said.

In return for the people's understanding and support, it was the duty of the ruling party to defend the power given by the people, he said.

"The power will not be abused because we know that if we abused it, the people will no longer support us," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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