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Abdullah-Umno

UMNO NEEDS TO BE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, SAYS ABDULLAH

ALOR SETAR, April 27 (Bernama) -- Umno must be closer to the people and champion their cause if it wants to continue to represent them, said Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today.

"If Umno wants to be a party that truly represents the people and championing their cause then it must be determined to get closer to the people and struggle for them," he said.

Speaking at the opening of the general meeting of the Kuala Kedah Umno division here, he said such efforts would enable Umno to get the support of the people.

In this context, Abdullah urged members and leaders at all levels to close ranks after the party election.

He said democratic practice would actually run smoothly if they maintained solidarity after the election because they accepted the decision of the majority.

Abdullah said Umno members must choose leaders who were credible, good and could bring success to the party instead of choosing leaders based on cliques.

"What is the point of struggling to ensure the party lineup but only to lose during the general election," he said.

He said Umno still prevailed because of the continued practice of democracy which gave members the opportunity to choose their leaders.

Abdullah, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, criticised PAS for using religion to gain political power while Umno used political power to promote Islam and develop its followers in the country.

He also lashed out at those who continued to slander Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to instigate the people to hate the national leader.

-- BERNAMA

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