

11 JAN 2002

Abdullah-Keadilan

AZMIN TO FACE CONSEQUENCES OF REVEALING OFFICIAL SECRETS, DPM WARNS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- The Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has cautioned Keadilan vice president Azmin Mohamed Ali that he may face the consequences of revealing the content of documents covered under the Official Secrets Act.

Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, said the government would monitor whether Keadilan's campaigning in the run-up to the Jan 19 by-election for the Indera Kayangan seat in Perlis violates provisions under the Act.

Yesterday, Azmin told a news conference in Indera Kayangan that he would reveal during the campaigning the content of one of six boxes of so-called secret documents to back the party's allegations of improprieties by government leaders.

"I am sure he is aware of the consequences of revealing secret documents. We will wait and see what he is going to do," Abdullah told reporters after attending a Puteri Umno Aidilfitri open house at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were guests of honour at the reception. Barisan Nasional component party leaders and several ministers also attended the reception.

"I don't know what he (Azmin) is going to do so I do not want to anticipate and say anything...we will see what he is going to do...we know what action to take (if official secrets are revealed)," Abdullah said.

Following nomination held in Kangar yesterday, there would be nine days of campaigning for the by-election.

The Indera Kayangan seat fell vacant following the death of the Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblyman Datuk Khor Lian Tee of the MCA on Dec 19.

The by-election is a straight fight between BN's Oui Ah and her Keadilan challenger Khoo Yang Chong.

Oui is a former headmistress and currently Perlis' MCA women's wing chief, while Khoo, is a local Buddhist Society chief and a former teacher.

-- BERNAMA

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