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DPM: We'll back any move by EC

ALOR STAR, Wed. - The Government supports any move by the Election Commission to review the Election Ordinance to put a stop to what the commission had yesterday described as "crude and callous" campaigning.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that if the EC wanted to implement new ordinances, it should never jeopardise the democratic process during elections.

"Like I have stressed before, aggression is not the way to campaign. We must use tact and explain to the people the meaning and purpose of our struggle.

"Aggression only creates a hostile environment," he said after meeting Umno veterans and retired civil servants at Sekolah Kebangsaan Gunung in Anak Bukit here.

Abdullah said the Barisan Nasional would also give its views after it had conducted a post-mortem on the results of the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit State by-elections.

He was commenting on a New Straits Times report quoting EC secretary Datuk Wan Ahmad Wan Omar, describing the campaigning in Pendang and Anak Bukit as "crude and callous" that should no longer be happening in this country after all these years.

He had expressed his disappointment, saying that party workers of both camps should "learn from past elections and abide by campaign ethics".

Asked what he thought of the campaigning so far, Abdullah said it was really terrible compared to previous elections given the many allegations and rumours from the Opposition, including labelling Abdullah himself as a pork seller.

"They even doctored pictures of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as a priest.

"These are all lies and such people should not even be allowed to take part in an election."

The Deputy Prime Minister said they (Opposition) did not respect the people and thought they could easily lie and manipulate their thinking.

"If people like them ever became the Government, the whole administration would collapse."