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IPF-AGM
ABDULLAH TO OPEN IPF AGM TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will open the Indian Progressive Front's (IPF) annual general meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre here, tomorrow.

The party's 10th assembly, themed "Together We Struggle For A Better Future", would be attended by some 5,000 delegates, IPF president Datuk M.G. Pandithan said today.

"The assembly this time around will focus on important issues effecting the Indian community in the country especially in the fields of education, economy, politics and social," he told Bernama here.

He said the delegates were expected to spend considerable time at the one-day assembly to debate on social problems besieging the community and the lack of discipline among the Indian youth of the nation.

"The Indian youth need to pull up their socks if they want to succeed in this very challenging environment...we expect delegates to talk at length on this and give us suggestions on how social problems among Indian youth could be overcome," he added.

Another issue expected to hog the limelight is the rejection of IPF's application to join the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN).

The party had on numerous occasions applied to join the BN fold but was turned down due to the BN's consensus rule which requires the 14 component parties to give the green light before any new party could come in.

"Although we are disappointed that we have been kept outside the BN for almost a decade, nevertheless we will declare our undivided support for the Barisan leadership," Pandithan said.

He said the party and its members had worked hard for the BN in the last two general elections and were confident that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah would take positive steps and open the gates of the BN to IPF.

"We hope the gates will open before the next general election so that our members will vigorously work for the victory of BN candidates," he added.

-- BERNAMA
SR ZS JK