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Abdullah-silat

MALAYSIA, AMONG THE SAFEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, SAYS ABDULLAH

PENANG, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is among the safest countries in the world due to its political stability and secured economy, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today.

The Deputy Prime Minister said this was proven by its ability to host various international events.

Speaking at the opening of the 12th World Silat Championship here, he said foreign visitors could also go anywhere they wanted in the country without fear.

Abdullah said the economic stability made Malaysia a shopping haven for tourists.

Nineteen countries are taking part in the week-long championship.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his message urged silat organisations such as the National Silat Association (PESAKA) to find out why the younger generation was no longer interested in the Malay martial art.

He said steps must be taken to correct this in efforts to produce future generation, strong in character and did not fear challenges.

Dr Mahathir said the government welcomed efforts to promote the silat since it could help prevent the youths from indulging in unhealthy activities.

"The silat inculcates discipline and self confidence," he said.

--BERNAMA

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