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Abdullah: Pas losing confidence

reports on "Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections" by Zubaidah Abu PENDANG, Sat. - The harassment of Puteri and Umno Youth campaigners in the Anak Bukit and Pendang by-elections clearly showed Pas was losing self-confidence in the run-up to polling day, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said Pas was also afraid voters would abandon the party after listening to Barisan Nasional speakers.

"They are scared that voters will be attracted and influenced by what BN workers do and say.

"It looks like Pas has lost self-confidence and is now afraid voters would start abandoning the party," he said.

Abdullah, who is deputy Umno president and Home Minister, was commenting on a police report lodged by two Wanita and Puteri Umno members on Thursday that a man lifted his sarung and exposed his private parts as they were campaigning in Kampung Cegar, Anak Bukit.

In their report, the women claimed they were winding up their campaign rounds when a man in his 70s invited them over to his house.

They claimed the man lifted his sarung when they declined. One of the women also claimed the man started hurling abuses when they ran away.

Abdullah said no sane person would do such a despicable thing and advised all parties to refrain from resorting to such acts.

He was speaking after laying the foundation stone at the RM35 million Pendang-North South Highway interchange here.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

On the report lodged by Pas and Parti Keadilan Nasional Youth against Syed Razak regarding a 160,000ha timber concession given by the State Government to a Sarawak-based company, he said:

"They will find all ways to make the people angry and hate the Government."

"If possible, they would also try to find ways to disqualify our candidate... this is their strategy," Abdullah added.

On a newspaper report quoting the Malaysia Employees Federation that workers surfing or downloading pornographic material during office hours could be dismissed, Abdullah said:

"As far as I know there are no specific provisions regarding this... however, we can take action if they misuse equipment or waste time doing things not related to their work."

On the positive showing of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, he said it was clear proof investors had not lost confidence and had faith in the power transition plan in Malaysia.

Earlier, Abdullah met with State civil servants at Wisma Darulaman where he briefed them on the smooth power transition plan structured by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the transition plan had taken into consideration all political implications and would ensure that the country's peace and political stability were not disrupted in any way.

"If there is no political stability, the whole country will be shaken and the Government would find itself greatly weakened.

"The Government has a heavy responsibility not only to ensure smooth development in the country, but also to uphold all laws and regulations," he said.

Abdullah said he explained the transition plan to the civil servants who understood and accepted it.

The civil servants also told him they would do their best to help the Government in all its undertakings.