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Abdullah-visit

ABDULLAH VISITS KELANTAN TOMORROW

KOTA BAHARU, April 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will arrive here tomorrow for a one-day working visit, can be likened as the emissary of peace especially with the current leadership crisis bugging Kelantan Umno.

For the first time after a week of the reported bid by 12 of the 14 Umno divisional chiefs to oust Datuk Mustapa Mohamad from his position as Kelantan Umno Chief, they will sit together in a meeting with Abdullah.

According to the itinerary released by the Information Department here, Abdullah would hold the meeting in Jeli after opening the delegates' conference of Umno Jeli at the Jeli Mara Junior Science College (MRSM).

The meeting in Mustapa's stronghold is expected to produce the best formula to end the crisis.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had before said that the presence of selfish individuals could frustrate Umno's efforts to recapture Kelantan from PAS in the next general election.

Abdullah is also scheduled to attend a meet-the-people session at Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Tumpat, Tumpat about 100km from Jeli at 2.30pm before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Meanwhile, Mustapa reminded Umno members and leaders in Kelantan not to let their differences to jeopardise the party's agenda to recapture Kelantan.

Mustapa, who is also Jeli divisional chief, said internal problems could hinder the party's plans especially at a time when the people were beginning to accept Umno's struggle.

"It is the responsibility of every Umno member to ensure that the party continues to enjoy the confidence of the people," he said when opening the delegates' meetings of both the Jeli Umno Youth and Wanita Umno today.

On reported attempt to topple him as Kelantan Umno Chief, Mustapa said he had offered his service voluntarily for the sake of Umno's struggle and it was a big responsibility.

He said that if Kelantan Umno remained united, the party had a good chance of winning back Kelantan in the next general election.

-- BERNAMA

RAR ABG