

05 JUL 2002

Abdullah-PAS

PAS WANTS PEOPLE TO HATE UMNO LEADERS, SAYS ABDULLAH

PUTRAJAYA, July 5 (Bernama) -- PAS's personal attacks are designed to plant the seeds of hatred against Umno leaders, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"It's the way of PAS, making personal attacks against Umno leaders. They want the people to hate us. Because of that, they made statements that were absurd, without limit, without shame... blurting out anything," he said.

He said it reflected their deep-seated resentment at the country's leaders, hoping that the people would also share their views.

"It's a display of their hatred towards us and hope that the people will also hate the country's leaders in particular (Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, myself and many others.

"That's the kind of politics they have...none whatsoever on what they will do if given the opportunity to govern," he told reporters after South Korean Construction and Transport Minister Lim In-Taik called on him at his office here today.

Abdullah said PAS leaders said that they wanted to do something good for Islam "but until today, there's none to show that in PAS-led Kelantan and Terengganu."

He said the two states were still backward and lacking in many respects.

"So, when we talk about Islam, Umno actually has done more for Islam (than PAS) because Umno strives to gain political power and the political power is used for the good of the religion, race and country.

"We don't use religion as tools...hadith, verses from the Quran to fish for votes and to win the support of the people. That would be unacceptable and no good...exploiting religion to get political support," he said.

Asked about Radio Television Malaysia (RTM)'s move to show video recordings of PAS leaders, Abdullah said this would enable the people to make their own assessment of the opposition party because they might not know what were said and written by PAS leaders.

"Leave it to the people so that they can form their own judgement of leadership and character (of PAS leaders). Malaysians are not easy to fool. They are smart. They know what is good and what is not," he said.

To a question, Abdullah, who is also Umno deputy president, said he did not stop RTM because it knew what it was doing.

"It presents news and whatever news it thinks that the people should know. This is important for the people in making decision, assessment...I leave it to RTM's discretion on what to air," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SR HS ABG