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Abdullah-Sharing/BM (With Pix)

POWER SHARING IN BARISAN NASIONAL IS GENUINE- ABDULLAH

MELAKA, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional power sharing formula is genuine and is not a joke or a soap opera, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

All component parties had to agree before a decision was made, said Abdullah who is also BN Deputy Chairman when opening the Melaka BN Convention at Air Keroh near here.

Sensitive issues like the declaration of Malaysia as an Islamic state was made by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, with the consent of all the BN component parties, he said.

Opposition parties such as PAS expected to see confusion among BN component parties following the declaration but they were disappointed when they saw that the BN remained strong and united even over this issue, he said.

The BN leadership listened to the views of all component parties before arriving at any decision and even in the Cabinet there was no such thing as majority decision as the decisions were all unanimous, Abdullah said.

The BN formula gave equal rights to all component parties irrespective of the size of the party or the number of people they represented.

Power sharing was not only practised at the Federal level but at all levels including state level, he said.

For example Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat represented a small party but was given the opportunity to head the state government.

BN Secretary-General Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat was also present at the function.

The BN formula had made Malaysia a peaceful, harmonious and united multiracial country, Abdullah said.

The Barisan Nasional had created an atmosphere of confidence and security among the people as they knew their representative was in the government to speak up for them, he added.

One of the sterling qualities of the Prime Minister was his willingness to hear any issue that was raised however sensitive it might be, Abdullah said.

"Dr Mahathir has never rejected or declined to hear any issue that was brought up at the BN Supreme Council level and will listen to it patiently and also all the views of the others present," he said.

The BN policy had won praise and commendation from foreign heads of state and tourists visiting this country, he said.

--BERNAMA

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