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Zam-Abdullah

ABDULLAH HAS MORAL STRENGTH TO LEAD COUNTRY, SAYS ZAM

KUCHING, April 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will take over as prime minister when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad retires in October, has the moral strength to lead the country, Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said today.

He said that Abdullah, with his moderate stand which takes into consideration the interests of all the races, would continue with a leadership that would strengthen the economy and further enhance national development.

"Datuk Seri Abdullah had his own leadership style and he will ensure that the country achieves Vision 2020 (to make Malaysia a developed nation by that year)", he said at a meeting with Information Ministry staff in Sarawak to explain the issues faced by the country.

He said the lifting of the ban on the Iban-language bible, "Bup Kudus", by the acting prime minister showed that he was very sensitive to the aspirations and needs of all communities in the country.

Zainuddin said another attribute of Abdullah's was his strong Umno spirit which could strengthen the party so that it continued to be the backbone of the country's administration.

On the article in "The Economist" which contained wild allegations about Malaysia, he said the magazine had malicious intention.

"It also wants to pit Abdullah against Dr Mahathir but the people are wise to the western media's manipulation and know what information is false," he said.

He also said that the Information Ministry staff in Sarawak should be in the forefront to prevent racial and religious extremists from undermining the harmony in the state.

"Sarawak is an example of strong racial unity and tolerance and where the people live in peace and tranquility," he said.

This was achieved because Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud was from the generation that had fought for independence and that really understood the aspirations of a state with 27 ethnic groups, he said.

He said that in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Sarawak's independence this year, the ministry staff should also play a major role in promoting love for the nation among the people.

-- BERNAMA

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