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Abdullah-Policy

CONTINUITY IN POLICIES THE KEY TO COUNTRY'S SUCCESS, SAYS ABDULLAH

By: Muna Khalid

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the success of Malaysia is the result of continuity in the implementation of good policies.

He said the policies being implemented by the government now were good and beneficial ones, and they would be continued even if the leadership changed.

"I will continue with our policies. One matter that we should understand is that the success of a country is the result of continuity in good policies," he said when addressing a gathering of Malaysians in Brunei.

Abdullah, who arrived here today for a three-day official visit, explained the measures he would take after succeeding Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who will retire in October.

He said various policies implemented by previous leaders had brought Malaysia to its present position, including the National Unity Policy, New Economic Policy and the latest, the Vision 2020 National Development Policy.

Abdullah said Malaysia was successful because it was unlike some other countries which changed all their policies when there was a change of government.

"When a new government comes to power, the policies change. New policies are drawn up because the new leader is so keen to show his ability to do this and that.

"The country will not develop properly if there is no follow-up and consistency, no continuity, no sustainability," he said.

He stressed that the power transition from Dr Mahathir to him was not a 'regime change' or change of government.

Abdullah also reminded Malaysians in Brunei to help preserve the good ties between the two countries.

"We appreciate this relationship and we hope it can be enhanced. And we hope Malaysians will be good people by respecting the laws of this country," he said.

Abdullah also took the opportunity to explain Malaysia's stand on various international issues.

He said Malaysia would not compromise on issues involving the religion, race and ideology.

"We are firm on our stand in opposing the Bush government's unilateral action on Iraq," he said.

He also said the government hoped that the issue of Palestine could be resolved as soon as possible.

-- BERNAMA

MUN NM YBY