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Abdullah-Work

DON'T TALK ABOUT RETIREMENT AS DR MAHATHIR IS STILL THE LEADER

KEPALA BATAS, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants all Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders to concentrate on their tasks and continue with the policies decided by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to ensure continued development.

The Deputy Prime Minister said any discussion on retirement by anyone was not proper because Dr Mahathir was still leading the country.

He said everyone should give solid support to Dr Mahathir and carry out his instructions and continue with all his policies.

"There is still much work that have yet to be completed and Dr Mahathir's leadership is still on at the moment. He is still Prime Minister until October and we have to concentrate on the tasks he had assigned to us as well as the policies that must be implemented. This is what we should concentrate on," he told reporters after attending a Chinese New Year open house held by the Kepala Batas MCA division, here today.

Also present was Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Abdullah said everyone, be they State Assemblymen or Ministers, must continue to appreciate the tasks assigned to them because now was not the time to think about retirement.

Yesterday, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik suggested that all members of Dr Mahathir's cabinet resigned when the Prime Minister retired in October to enable Abdullah, as the successor, to form his own cabinet.

Describing the suggestion as Dr Lim's personal opinion, the Deputy Prime Minister said he appreciated the moves by various quarters to give him an opportunity to arrange his government line-up after Dr Mahathir's retirement and felt that they were made sincerely.

"I appreciate and understand the statements made. As such, I don't really question them," said Abdullah.

He said what was important was that all the present tasks must be completed first.

"After that, we will think about it," he added.

-- BERNAMA

ZU MAI AO