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Abdullah-Umno

BN CANDIDATES MUST BE CREDIBLE AND CAPABLE OF BRINGING VICTORY

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Only those with credibility and capable of ensuring victory for Barisan Nasional (BN) will be nominated by the party to stand in the coming general election, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"What is important for the general election is that we choose candidates who are credible and can get the support of the electorates to bring victory to BN," said the Deputy Prime Minister.

"The candidates, whether they are from the younger group or the experienced older group, we don't care whoever they are...but if there is room to field the young blood as candidates, it is a positive development for BN in future," he told reporters after visiting the OIC Expo 2003, here today.

Abdullah was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday advising BN veteran politicians to step down and assist new faces to campaign to ensure victory for the ruling party.

Describing Dr Mahathir's statement as a "sincere advice", Abdullah said he welcomed politicians who voluntarily wished to make way to new faces to contest in the general election.

In an exclusive interview with Bernama, Dr Mahathir, who will retire at the end of the month, said it was time for incumbent politicians who had served a long time to make way for new faces to take over their role in serving the people.

Malaysia will hold a general election before the expiry of the current mandate held by BN in November 2004.

Abdullah was also asked about his advice regarding the non-attendance of the Dewan Rakyat sitting by BN members of Parliament being among the criteria to be taken into account in the selection of candidates for the general election.

However, the advice seems to be ignored when the current sitting of the Dewan Rakyat had to be adjourned on a number of occasions due to the lack of quorum.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he was not aware of the matter and would ensure that it did not recur.

-- BERNAMA

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