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Abdullah-Education

EMPHASIS TO BOOST INTELLECTUAL CAPITAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that the government will place emphasis to boost intellectual capital among the younger generation.

He said that the matter was discussed at length at the Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council meeting which endorsed him as the BN chairman.

"The matter was raised by component members for emphasis on education to produce a more knowledgeable and more outstanding workforce," he told a media conference after the meeting which he chaired for the first time after succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad a week ago.

Abdullah said that the emphasis to boost intellectual capital among the younger generation was to ensure that Malaysia was able to produce a skilled workforce on a continuous basis in the interest of the country's development.

"Should there be any problems, we will prioritise to overcome them," he said.

Abdullah also said that through education, unity among the younger generation could be strengthened while emphasis on boosting skills among them would enable them to be the future assets of the nation.

"Our objective is to develop this younger force and we will give attention to whatever problems," he said.

Abdullah, when asked on the BN's preparations for the next general election, said that the general election would be conducted at any time and the component parties must improve their preparations even if they were ready.

He was also asked on the remarks by the opposition parties that his decision not to name the Deputy Prime Minister and new Finance Minister shows that he did not trust anybody.

"They can say anything they like. I will decide, it's my prerogative," said Abdullah.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters after the meeting, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said that the BN tribute dinner for former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was likely to be held in January next year.

"The date has not been fixed, got to be sometime in January next year as he's got so many engagements, got to wait and I've set up a committee and I will decide the date," he said.

Dr Lim said that the BN tribute dinner was different from the one planned by the MCA with other BN Chinese-based parties scheduled to be held on Feb 1 next year.

Asked on Abdullah's advice to BN component parties to reduce politiking among them, Dr Lim said: "We have reduced so much politiking..."

"Things are starting on a good footing, the understanding among the BN parties is better and prepared to face the public," he said.

He also said that during the BN Supreme Council meeting today, matters related to the timing of the next general election were not discussed as it was the prerogative of the Prime Minister.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, when met by reporters after the meeting, said that matters related to the election was not discussed today as it was the first BN Supreme Council meeting chaired by Abdullah.

However, he expressed confidence that the support from the Chinese community in the country would be better in the next general election.

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