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Abdullah-Youth

GOVT WILL CONTINUE TO CHAMPION LOT OF THE YOUTH, SAYS ABDULLAH

JITRA, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the government will continue to champion the lot of the youth because they are the nation's capital in terms of human resources.

The deputy prime minister said the government did not want them to take drugs or be listless, mentally weak and disinterested in their studies.

"All these failings must be eradicated. We want the existing good values to be further enhanced," he said when opening the Pemadam colloquium for institutions of higher learning at Dewan Wawasan, here.

He said the youth must have high ambitions to develop the country and not expect sympathy or special privileges to compete at the global level.

The present leaders would be happy to see the youth in the country better off and performing outstandingly, he said.

Asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's opening statement at the just-concluded Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, which was misinterpreted by the west, Abdullah said the west was well known for playing favourites.

"This favouritism can be seen from their actions, role and their policies, be they on the economy, environment or human rights," he said.

The prime minister's statement that "Jews rule the world by proxy" was labelled by several countries in the west as offensive and anti-semitic.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir's statement was deliberately misinterpreted to portray him as being an enemy of the Jews.

The three-day colloquium which started yesterday was attended by about 4,000 students from over 50 private and public institutions of higher learning nationwide.

-- BERNAMA

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