

30 AUG 2003

Abdullah-Candidates

ABDULLAH CONFIDENT OF NO SABOTAGE IN ELECTION

KEPALA BATAS, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is confident that Barisan Nasional (BN) elected representatives who are not renominated for the next general election will not sabotage their own parties.

"God willing, I believe that there'll be no sabotage," the deputy prime minister said when asked to comment on the pledge by BN elected representatives in Langkawi recently to continue supporting the BN even if they are not selected as candidates.

"The BN elected representatives' pledge shows that they prioritise the party and this is the attitude we want to ensure victory," he told reporters after opening the Penang Closed 9-a-side Football Championship for the Prime Minister's Cup, here.

Abdullah, who is also BN deputy president, said preparations for the general election were proceeding smoothly and the members had displayed a high party spirit which he hoped would continue until the election.

"What's important is that we want the BN, and not individuals, to win because individuals alone cannot contribute anything," said Abdullah who will take over leadership of the BN from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after the prime minister retires in October.

Abdullah said the BN was determined to win the next general election not to boast but because it wanted to continue to offer an efficient and responsible government to achieve the Vision 2020 objective to make Malaysia a developed nation by that year.

Earlier, in his speech, Abdullah said the government had resolved to empower the young people in the country by providing quality education and instilling good moral and a patriotic spirit in them so that they could become responsible leaders who could best contribute to the country's development.

The young generation should understand that they had a responsibility to develop the country in future and not shy away from this duty, he said.

He said the government had built the best facilities for them to acquire knowledge and skills to prepare them as leaders of the future.

"Irrespective of their post, be it in the private or public sector, they must have the will, determination and ability to make the best contribution to develop the country," he added.

Abdullah said the football championship organised by the BN Youth was a good programme which gave the young people of various races a chance to interact.

The tournament would be made an annual pre-National Day celebration event if the response was good, he said.

A total of 123 teams are taking part in the two-day tournament.

The champion in the open category will receive RM3,000 cash, a trophy and other prizes while the champion in the under-15 category will receive RM1,000 cash, a trophy and other prizes.

-- BERNAMA

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