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Abdullah-Umno

LEADERS MUST ACCEPT PARTY DECISION

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Umno leaders must accept whatever decision made by the party leadership and not protest if they were asked to retire.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president said Umno members should take heed of it because previously there had been cases where members had opposed the party when they were no longer elected as leaders.

"It has happened in Umno before when someone is no longer needed, he protested, he did many other things, he opposed the party," he told a media conference, here today.

Abdullah pointed out that when an Umno member said that he would leave it to the party leadership to make any decision, he must accept whatever decision made.

"We must have principles, (and) the principle is to leave it to the leaders and accept the decision made," he said when asked to comment on developments lately when several Umno leaders `offered' to retire to make way for young blood if required by the Umno leadership.

Among those who had made the offer were Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and the latest was Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad.

"If people want to go, what can we do, we should not stop (them)...if (they) don't want to go, it's also difficult," he said.

Upon returning from a working visit abroad on Sunday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reported as welcoming the decision of several Umno leaders to retire and not to contest in the next general election because this would give his successor, Abdullah, an opportunity to "re-arrange everything".

Abdullah said it was the view of the Prime Minister, adding: "We will see who will follow what the Prime Minister says, but (if) there are vacancies, they would certainly be filled, can't wait too long."

-- BERNAMA

AZH AHH AO