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Abdullah-Formula

ABDULLAH REVEALS "FORMULA" WHICH MAKES JOHOR THE BASTION FOR UMNO, BN

JOHOR BAHRU, June 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today revealed the "formula" which makes Johor the bastion for Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"What formula does Johor use?" the deputy prime minister said when referring to BN's 100 per cent victory in Johor in the past two general elections.

Abdullah, who is also the Umno deputy president said the first ingredient of the formula was that Johor Umno did not practise parochialism and had always opened the doors for new talents, enabling more people to join Umno.

"Johor Umno does not practise a closed-door policy...with this open attitude, Johor Umno gets stronger," Abdullah said in his speech when opening the Johor Umno convention 2003 here.

Abdullah said Johor Umno had developed a strong bond not only among its leaders and members but also among members of other component parties through various grassroot programmes.

Abdullah said close cooperation among BN component parties in Johor was evident not only in such programmes or limited to during elections but also at all times and situations.

"When holding functions like the breaking of fast, Johor Umno has also invited friends in the BN to be involved and this is not limited to only election times," he said to the applause of some 2,000 people who were present.

He said Johor Umno managed to draw attention to the party by expanding its programmes to all divisions and branches statewide to enable party members to be involved.

Abdullah said this had not only enabled Johor Umno to be BN's backbone but also the pillar to Umno Malaysia, as frequently said by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He hoped Johor Umno would continue to be Umno's bastion even after the next general election by winning all of the 26 parliamentary and 56 state constituencies in the state.

He also reminded all Umno members and leaders to remain clean and refrain from being tarnished by acts like abuse of power and corruption in efforts to maintain party integrity.

Abdullah said the efforts to "Continue Championing The Malay Struggle", the convention's theme, should be viewed from a wide perspective as Umno was the only party which served as the platform for the Malay struggle, which also became the stage for the other races to place their hopes.

"The Umno struggle is always relevant in Malaysia, for both the Malays and non-Malays," he said, adding that this was proven by the existence of the Alliance which is now the BN and with Umno still being the coalition's backbone.

On the full support from Johor Umno, Abdullah who will take over the leadership of the party and country from Dr Mahathir in October, said he would not fail the strong support pledged to him.

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who is also the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, Puteri Umno chief Azalina Osman Said and BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat were also present.

-- BERNAMA  
MNY MHI ZUL