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OIC-Abdullah
ABDULLAH SAYS PM IS NOT ANTI-JEW

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech yesterday was constructive criticism focused mainly on the Muslims.

"He is not anti-Jew. He said what is happening because we (Muslims) have been oppressed. The advice was for Muslims," the deputy prime minister told reporters after hosting bilateral talks with nine leaders who are attending the 10th Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit here.

"But what is important is he gave a lot of ideas and we must not be diverted," he said.

Abdullah said Dr Mahathir had repeatedly said that he was not anti-semitic or anti-Jew.

He said the Muslims could not expect others to help the ummah but should instead seek ways to develop their own economies.

Touching on the bilateral talks, he said there had been a shift in thinking as most of the countries were now stressing developing their respective economies.

"It has been different from the past talks I had with them where we focused on political issues but today we discussed more on trade and investments among OIC members," he said.

It was a good sign that the Muslim nations were now more keen on expanding their economies and developing the education and tourism sectors, he added.

Abdullah also said that most of the leaders agreed to extend their full cooperation to him to lead the OIC after Dr Mahathir steps down end of this month.

-- BERNAMA
VP AZZ JK