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Abdullah-Election

BN'S ELECTION PREPARATION NOT AFFECTED BY PBDS CRISIS, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, July 1 (Bernama) -- The Parti Bansa Dayak Sawarak (PBDS) leadership crisis following the resignation of Datuk Amar Leo Moggie as its president will not affect the Barisan Nasional's preparation for the next general election, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Not affected. I believe they'll overcome the problems they're facing," he told reporters after opening the Standard Chartered Group Leadership Team Conference here today.

He was asked whether Moggie's resignation from his party post was a right move as it has resulted in a leadership crisis unlike the move by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who will leave the BN in a stable position when he steps down in October.

"That's their respective approach. Our party is a big one...a big party will also have big problems," he said.

Abdullah, who is BN deputy chairman, said that so far, the approach adopted by Dr Mahathir, who is BN president, appeared not to have affected the party and he hoped that this stability would continue to prevail.

"Let's see Moggie's approach in this matter as he has previously stated that it would be better for the problems which have arisen to be overcome by his successor," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Abdullah said that Malaysia had always believed that war would never be a long-lasting solution to terrorism.

"The root causes, the reasons why people resort to terrorism must be determined first. Our experience in dealing with the Communist Insurgency from 1948 to 1960 has a grim resonance with the security issues that plague the world today," he said.

He said that the country successfully eradicated the communist threat by identifying the root causes of dissatisfaction and engaging in a battle to win hearts and minds.

"The child of a terrorist who is killed in an armed struggle will seek vengeance. The child of a terrorist who is shown that a better way of life exists will be persuaded to renounce terror," he said.

Abdullah also pointed out that some quarters were attempting to use the present tensions to support the idea of an impending clash of civilisations between Islam and the West.

This was an unfortunate, inflammatory interpretation and the country does not subscribe to it, he said.

In fact, he said, many Muslims around the world were affronted that Islam had been hijacked by a minority group to further their own narrow purposes.

"The Islam that the majority practise is a religion of peace. The Islam that the majority practise is a religion of tolerance and openness," he said.

Abdullah said that Malaysia was in a unique position to comment on the current scenario as the majority of the population were Muslims, who co-exist peacefully alongside Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and followers of other faiths.

As a Muslim country, he said, Malaysia had long promoted a moderate and progressive brand of Islam.

He said that the country emphasises on substance over form, ensuring that the tenets of administration were consistent with Islam.

This means looking after the welfare of the people by ensuring good governance, efficient administration and the provision of critical social services, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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