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Abdullah-Poem

A POEM REFLECTING ABDULLAH'S PRINCIPLES IN LIFE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- Like Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi too has a hidden talent as a poet.

If Dr Mahathir recited his poem "Malays Easily Forget" at the 55th Umno General Assembly in 2001, Abdullah had one too, a poem that reveals his principles in life, when he opened simultaenously the Umno Youth, Wanita Umno and Puteri Umno assemblies at the Dewan Merdeka of the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here tonight.

Abdullah said he first recited the poem, "I Seek The Peace Within" at the Utusan Melayu's poetry night at the DBKL Hall on May 9.

Recalling the event that led him to pen the poem, Abdullah said he was asked to recite a poem and to choose from any of the poems written by famous Malaysian writers.

"At that time, however I was inspired to compose a few lines, if you can call, what I wrote, poetry at all.

"But those lines, for me, more accurately reflect my core and my principles," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister said he chose to recite the poem for the second time in the hope that he might share with the delegates some of his principles in seeking "the peace within".

"If you find it to your liking, make this a part of your life," he said.

The poem, "I SEEK THE PEACE WITHIN":

I seek not riches untold
To live a life of luxury;
I seek not millions
To live a life of plenty;
I seek not friends so many
To live a life of proligacy;
I seek who is Al-Ghazali
I seek who is Al-Shafie
To unravel the secrets in the Holy Book
Seeking inspiration;
To unravel the secrets in the ways of the Prophet
Seeking guidance;
I live only for Him, my Lord
He is my Companion
He is my Guardian
He suffices;
I live a life full of meaning
Immersed in the peace of within

In his speech, lasting almost an hour, Abdullah also paid tribute to many Umno members who did not hold any titles, any positions, any special standing and who had never even set foot in the PWTC, let alone met the Prime Minister.

But, he said they possessed the greatest loyalty to the party and a pure and profound belief in its struggle.

"I believe that their virtuous intentions, their noble deeds, and their sincerity have enabled the Angels to raise their prayers to the Heavens to receive Allah's mercy, such that this nation is favoured, that Umno is

protected, and that the people are blessed," he said.

-- BERNAMA

JH JH MOZ ABG