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Abdullah-VCD

ABDULLAH URGES RECORDING COMPANIES TO REDUCE VCD PRICES

PERMATANG PAUH, June 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has urged recording companies to consider reducing the prices of video compact discs (VCDs) to encourage people to buy the original copies.

The deputy prime minister said recording companies should take advantage of the lack of pirated VCDs in the market now to increase their sales by reducing prices.

The success of the authorities' operations against the production and distribution of pirated VCDs had made the illegal copies difficult to get in the market now, he told reporters after launching the Taman Ara Indah housing project here today.

Abdullah said by selling original VCDs at lower prices, recording companies would still make profits as the volume of sales would increase.

Original VCDs are currently retailed at between RM30 and RM50 each compared to RM5 for pirated copies.

VCD piracy is believed to have been crippled following the integrated operations launched by the authorities against illegal VCD production and distribution.

Abdullah said one reason piracy could occur was that there was demand from people who could not afford to buy the original copies.

"If the prices are too high, piracy will occur. When piracy happens, they (recording companies) themselves will lose; so, it would be good for them to reduce prices," said Abdullah, who is Home Minister.

Abdullah was also asked about the actions of a handful of people holding posts in Umno who prevented party workers from being active in the areas of certain individuals for fear of losing their influence.

"All sorts of problems are surfacing now. The important thing is that any problem that arises should be overcome in the interests of the party and not to protect the interests of individuals," said the Umno deputy president.

Abdullah reminded party members not to go overboard in seeking to be candidates.

"Don't do that and stop such actions," he said.

He also hoped that everyone would work hard to wrest the Permatang Pauh parliamentary seat back from Parti Keadilan Nasional.

"We will work with full confidence that we will win," he said.

On the Umno General Assembly next week, Abdullah said it would be just another annual assembly as Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wanted it this way.

"The assembly is not a special assembly or a farewell ceremony for Dr Mahathir, who will be retiring, because Dr Mahathir wants it to be just a normal annual assembly," he said.

-- BERNAMA

SA MAI YBY