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Ghani-Umno

UMNO TO UPLIFT POSITION OF MALAYS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

JOHOR BAHRU, June 14 (Bernama) -- Efforts to produce more distinguished Malays at the global level is a continuation of the Umno struggle to lift the status of the Malays which must be carried out with determination, said Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

He said this did not deviate from the original struggles of Umno to champion the cause of the religion, race and country and would in fact strengthen the struggles of the Malays who had already started competing at the global level.

He said this at the Johor Umno Convention which was opened here today by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also Umno deputy president.

Abdul Ghani, who is also chairman of the Johor Umno Liaison Body, said the wider Malay involvement worldwide was necessary in view of the changing trend in international relations and increasing competition.

He said the Malays and Umno could not run away from facing the various challenges of the new era and efforts to globalise the Malay participation in various fields were a translation of the Umno struggles in the 21st century.

"If we are capable of becoming a global player, by retaining strong resilience, the elevated position of the Malays will also be able to raise the position of Islam," he said, adding that Malaysia was already becoming a model for other Muslim countries.

While expressing solid support for Abdullah, who will take over the helm of Umno and the country from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October, Abdul Ghani said Johor Umno was confident that Abdullah would continue with the efforts of the Malay struggle.

"All Umno members, our colleagues in the Barisan Nasional and the rakyat will give their solid support to him (Abdullah) to ensure that the Malay agenda achieved its objectives," he said.

Abdul Ghani also recollected the history of Umno's birth in Johor and the contribution of all the party's past presidents and the country's prime ministers up till Dr Mahathir.

"Dr Mahathir has raised the confidence of the Malays, which was instilled by the late Tun Abdul Razak, to a much higher level," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir had continuously inspired the Malays to play a role globally so that they would be on par with the people of other developed countries.

Dr Mahathir is still determined to stick to his decision to retire when he is at the peak in the eyes of the world.

-- BERNAMA

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