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Abdullah-Youth

ABDULLAH PLEDGES TO CONTINUE WITH PROGRAMMES FOR THE YOUTH

ALOR STAR, July 22 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today pledged to continue with the development programmes for the youth to ensure that they are capable of carrying on with the nation's development agenda.

The deputy prime minister said that the youth, as the future leaders of the country, should be given ample grooming in all aspects to face the increasingly difficult challenges ahead.

They should be equipped with strengths like knowledge, efficiency, skills and discipline to face the big challenges both within the country and internationally now and in the future, he said at the launch of the Anti-Drug and Umno's "Ops Sapu Bersih" campaigns in Taman Rekreasi Gunung Keriang, near here.

He cited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as an example of how these virtues had enabled a leader to tackle challenges like the financial crisis in 1997 and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak recently.

He said the recent developments in the international arena which placed Malaysia in a challenging situation included the problem of terrorism which must be tackled wisely.

"Thanks to the wise leadership of Dr Mahathir, we are safe," he said.

He said it was only natural for power to pass from the old generation to the new and it was the government's responsibility to prepare those taking over the leadership of the country.

"If it's so ordained, after October I will replace Dr Mahathir. What I want to do is to continue with what's good," he said, adding that the government would train quality and capable people to take over the helm in all fields and at all levels.

He said it was very important to groom the youth in all aspects so that the country would remain safe, peaceful and progressive and its people united.

The anti-drug campaign run by the National Narcotics Agency involved members of youth organisations in the state who took part in a three-day leadership course while "Ops Sapu Bersih" involved community programmes organised by Umno divisions in Kedah.

-- BERNAMA

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