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Abdullah-Election

STATE UMNO LIAISON BODIES TOLD TO ACTIVATE ELECTION MACHINERY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today directed all the state Umno liaison chairmen to activate the election machinery in their respective states to face the 11th general election which can be held at any time.

Reminding party leaders at all levels -- Wanita, Youth and Puteri -- to involve all their members in the move, the prime minister said all party members must work hard to win the election.

"Don't keep asking when the election will be held. The important thing is that the party's election machinery must be in a state of readiness to gain victory," the acting Umno president told a media conference after chairing the party's supreme council meeting at Menara Datuk Onn, here.

He said Umno, which had just undergone a change in its leadership, was now in a position of strength and unity.

Abdullah took over as prime minister from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 31 last year and appointed Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as deputy prime minister on Jan 7.

Abdullah said the members' support for the existing leaders was very good and Najib's appointment to the number two post in the government was also well-received.

The party's Management Committee, which is now chaired by Najib, was also running smoothly, he added.

"The situation in Umno now shows consensus, cooperation, support for each other and is very easy, we hope that it stays that way," he said.

On the selection of Umno candidates for the general election, he said it was still in the early stages.

"(The candidates lists) have not reached us. No state has given (its candidates' names) to the management committee yet," he said.

On PAS' claim that the government is purposely delaying the report on the special committee chaired by former director-general of education Tan Sri Murad Mohamed Noor on the people's religious schools because of its election agenda, Abdullah said that he himself had not spoken to Murad on the matter.

"PAS can say what it likes. PAS thinks we have nothing nice...everything is not right. When we want to do something nice, it's all linked to the general election.

"Our party is not just for election and doesn't work hard just for the election," he said.

He stressed that Umno, as the backbone of the party and the government in power, had visions and plans to implement to achieve the Vision 2020 goal to turn Malaysia into a developed nation.

However, he was confident that the people would be wise in assessing what the government had done and PAS' allegations against it.

On the supreme council meeting, he said he also spoke on his recent visits to the Asean countries, the majority of which wanted Malaysia to have better and closer relations and cooperation with them.

Malaysia stated its stand that it would continue to work and cooperate with the Asean nations because it was important for nations in a region to be on good terms and to cooperate to face whatever problems in the region, he said.

-- BERNAMA  
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