

25/08/2005

Abdullah-Decision

EVERY PM MADE DECISIONS UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES - ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Every Prime Minister had to make decisions suited to the circumstances of their time and should be judged accordingly, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"It's not fair to keep comparing what happened before. Take it as what is happening now - is it right or wrong?," he said.

Abdullah said there was no point for people to compare what he was doing with what former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would have done.

"This is because they are both different people leading the country at different time under different situations.

"It's the same when Tun Razak (Second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein) took over from Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj (First Prime Minister); he assessed the situation and had to introduce certain policies to suit the circumstances of the time, relying on his own judgment," Abdullah said in an interview with the "Off The Edge" monthly magazine.

The magazine issued a press release on the interview to Bernama today.

The statement said the interview touching on a wide range of issues also focused on the importance of inculcating the right values and cultures that would ensure Malaysia continued to succeed as a nation.

Abdullah also spoke of the need in a multi-racial society for the government to make major decisions affecting the future of the country on the basis of consensus and that the younger generation must be reminded of this.

"They also have to recognise the value of consultations, discussions and value of deciding on the basis of all agreeing," he said.

On Islam Hadhari (Civilisational Islam), Abdullah said it was not a new denomination of Islam nor was it a new school of thought.

"Islam Hadhari is like a formula. It's a guide for understanding the teachings of Islam," he said.

Abdullah said what Muslims need to do was to abide by the 10 principles and there was no need for the government to build any edifice to promote Islam Hadhari.

"It's like Rukunegara. There's no such thing as Rukunegara building, no such thing as Rukunegara plantation. It's already a way of being," he said.

He said the 10 principles enunciated in Islam Hadhari like being faithful to god: be trustworthy and dependable, pursuing knowledge and protecting the environment were principles that were also accepted by people of other religions.

-- BERNAMA

MRA RV TOM