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Abdullah: Wrong to assume new voters will not support BN

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs - The Opposition cannot assume that new voters, including young people, would vote against the Barisan Nasional, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He was responding to a report in the Utusan Malaysia today where Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor said he was confident the general election would be held this year as the BN did not want to face 700,000 new voters next year whom he said supported the Opposition.

"We cannot accept the assumption that since they are new voters, they would vote for other parties.

"They (the Opposition) assume so because there are young students who have made comments opposing the Government. It is not necessary that they represent all youths," Abdullah, who is also BN deputy chairman, told reporters today.

He was speaking at a Press conference after chairing the Barisan Nasional 25th Anniversary Celebration Committee meeting at the coalition's headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

Abdullah said many young people, including university students, had joined BN and the number of young BN members was still increasing.

"I know for certain that there are many young BN leaders. Maybe they are not making a lot of noise, going to the streets, having their own homepage, not using the computer to tell all sorts of stories, spreading all sorts of nonsense and making accusations against the Government," he said.

Abdullah said BN component parties were also not worried about this as they had youth and women movements with sizable numbers of young men and women.

On the meeting today, he said among the items discussed were the anniversary logo, venues and financial aspects and decisions made would be forwarded to BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The celebration would be nation-wide and the date has yet to be fixed," Abdullah said.

Among those present were Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

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