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Abdullah-Mahathir

DR MAHATHIR'S CONDITION IS NOT SERIOUS, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the public should not worry about the health of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is undergoing treatment for a lung infection as his condition is not serious.

He said although the prime minister is in good health, he needs much rest as Dr Mahathir had been very active earlier.

"I went to see the prime minister earlier today and I feel there is no cause for worry over his health," he told reporters after chairing a meeting for Members of Parliament from the Barisan Nasional (BN) in conjunction with the opening of parliament sitting tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir was admitted to the National Heart Institute (IJN) here since Friday as he had lung infection after returning from performing the haj on Wednesday.

"I had the opportunity to speak with the prime minister and I could see that he was in good health and when I asked him whether it's possible for him to return to work in two or three days' time, the prime minister replied insyaAllah (God willing)," he said.

Abdullah was also asked why Dr Mahathir was admitted to the IJN when he was suffering from lung infection.

He said it was normal for anyone who had undergone treatment or heart surgery at the IJN to seek treatment there for any infection.

"I have undergone heart surgery at the IJN myself and whenever I have any ailment such as the cold or bronchitis I will go to the IJN as they already have the medication and the doctors there also have my medical record," he said.

When asked whether Dr Mahathir would present the white paper on the national economy at the Dewan Rakyat sitting, Abdullah said if the prime minister was healthy and had recovered, he would do it.

"What is needed now is that the prime minister must rest because we know how active he had been previously in domestic activities and visiting the states as well as campaigning in Sabah," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's programmed visits to the states including Sabah, Abdullah said the prime minister did not mention any change and this meant that the programmes which had been scheduled would go on.

Abdullah however said that he had been requested by Dr Mahathir to represent the prime minister at the official opening of the Parliament sitting by Yang di Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, tomorrow.

--BERNAMA

ARA AO