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# Dollah will not be acting PM: Dr M

**PUTRAJAYA, Sun:** Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will not be appointed as Acting Prime Minister when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad goes on a two-week leave from Wednesday.

He will only assume the duties of the Prime Minister, who will be in Davos, Switzerland for a week-long working visit.

Mahathir is scheduled to attend the annual World Economic Forum from Jan 27 to Feb 1 and an inter-cultural meeting.

During a brief press conference at his Hari Raya open house held at the new Seri Perdana for the first time, Mahathir said that it was normal for the DPM to takeover the PM's duties.

Asked whether there was a delay in developing the new Proton model, he said the new model must be one which can sell.

"The previous model did not sell that well. If a venture does not benefit both parties, then it will be a little difficult to pursue it," he said.

Denying that efforts and talks to produce another variant of the 1100cc Proton Tiara had been shelved, Mahathir said Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd and France's Automobiles Citroen were still having discussions.

The Proton-Citroen project which began with the Tiara model in 1996 was supposed to launch the second car early last year but this was postponed.

More than 30,000 people turned up at the Hari Raya open house.

Apart from usual Raya greeting, most visitors congratulated Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali on the BN victory in the recent general elections.

Many also wanted a chance to see the official residence of the Prime Minister, which had

attracted a lot of negative attention from certain opposition parties who deemed it, and Putrajaya, a waste of money.

Mahathir said people also came to see the Putra Mosque due to the publicity given to it at the height of the controversy and to see where the money had been wasted.

"But none of them said that this was a waste of money. Instead, their comment is that they don't understand why people want to *lelang* this," he said, a reference to PAS' statement that they would auction Putrajaya if they came into power.

"The people's praises for this residence show that they are proud of it. Well, this is not my house, it's their house ... it's the people's palace," he said.

Asked if he had moved into the official residence, he said he stayed there on and off, especially when there were functions.