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`Sanggang by-election should not be used as yardstick'

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Sanggang by-election in Pahang on April 1 should not be used as a yardstick to gauge whether the people accept the Barisan Nasional Government, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"Based on the history of past by-elections, the outcome of a by-election is not reflective of what would eventually happen in a general election.

"By-elections and general elections have different scopes and objectives," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang today.

He was at the airport to see off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is visiting Indonesia.

Abdullah, who is also Umno vice-president and assuming the duties of deputy president, was asked to comment on reports that some parties viewed the Sanggang by-election as a yardstick to measure the rakyat's acceptance of the Barisan Nasional.

The Election Commission has set March 21 for nominations and April 1 for polling.

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