

'Don't use Umno to gain support'

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Party has no part in Sarawak election, says Abdullah

By R. Manirajan

KAJANG, Sun: Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says Umno should not be used as a platform to garner support for the coming Sarawak election.

He reiterated that Umno is not involved in the election and anyone saying that what he's doing in Sarawak now is for Umno's future is lying.

Replying to questions from reporters after closing a workshop on *Strategic Planning on Rainforest Knowledge Industries* today, Abdullah said no one should make any statement pertaining to the election which gives the impression that he is acting for Umno.

Early this month, former defence minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha said a group that he heads will contest in 45 state constituencies in the Sarawak election as independent candidates, and that this is aimed at bringing Umno into Sarawak, where previous attempts had failed.

Abang Abu Bakar had said that if the group's candidates are successful, then the group will head the government and that if at the time Umno is ready to spread its wings to Sarawak, the group and Umno supporters in the state will welcome

the move.

Abdullah said Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had also made it clear from the start that the party had no part in the election and that Umno's name should not be used to gain support.