

No reprieve for MCA duo, says Abdullah

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KUALA LUMPUR: The two Barisan Nasional members of the Penang state assembly who abstained from voting against a DAP motion are not likely to get a reprieve.

If no action is taken, BN deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday, it can set a precedent.

He said the move by the duo could not be accepted by the coalition, and appropriate action would be taken against them.

On Friday, **Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat-MCA)** and **Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi-MCA)** abstained from

voting against a motion by the DAP calling for the deferment of the RM1.02 billion Penang Outer Ring Road project.

Abdullah, who is also deputy prime minister, did not spell out what sort of action would be taken against the duo.

"We haven't decided yet on the form of action to be taken against the two."

However, he had previously said "there had been a precedent and the punishment was expulsion".

Show-cause letters could be sent to Lim and Tan, asking them to give their side of the story.

He said the matter will be discussed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad, who is BN chairman, when he returns from France, before any action is taken.

Abdullah also said he was willing to meet MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik over the matter.

Speaking after opening the Indian Progressive Front's 10th annual general assembly, he said the duo showed they did not support the BN by abstaining.

"They have to vote. Abstaining means they do not support the BN."

He said the coalition does not allow any of its representatives to abstain from voting on any motion unless they have valid reasons such as being on sick leave or abroad on official duties.