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ABDULLAH WILL KEEP HIS WORD, SAYS MAHATHIR

PENANG, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will keep his word to name his deputy before he assumes the prime minister's post next year, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The prime minister said Abdullah had said that he would announce his deputy after the Pendang and Anak Bukit by-elections in Kedah last month.

"Today is still after the by-elections and even after one year or more, it is still after the by-elections," he said.

"In fact he did not say when or after how many days or months and he has not reneged on his word," he told a news conference after speaking at a luncheon here in conjunction with the 30th anniversary celebration of the electronics industry in Penang.

"Well, you have to be patient," Dr Mahathir said in response to a question on the matter posed by a Japanese journalist to the deputy prime minister who also present at the news conference.

Abdullah had declined to comment, reminding the journalist that the news conference was meant to honour the prime minister.

Dr Mahathir had earlier this year announced that he was stepping down as prime minister in October next year and that Abdullah would succeed him.

-- BERNAMA

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