

07 JUL 2002
Abdullah-DPM

DPM WILL BE DECIDED AFTER BY-ELECTIONS, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUANTAN, July 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the decision on who will be the deputy prime minister after he becomes the prime minister will be made after the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections on July 18.

The deputy prime minister said he would discuss with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the three Umno vice-presidents on the matter.

He said this to reporters after meeting the Pahang Umno Liaison Committee, here. Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is also State Umno Liaison Committee chairman and party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"I told them I will start making decisions from now as required by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, but I need some time, especially now when Umno has a duty to perform in Pendang and Anak Bukit," he said.

Abdullah, who declined to answer further questions on the matter, said full attention must be focused on the by-elections.

"The concentration must be given there and only after that, I'll decide on a suitable time.

"Certainly, I'll also talk to Dr Mahathir. I've discussed with him earlier and I'll talk to him again. I'll also meet the three vice-presidents.

"This is the usual practice and this was also what Dr Mahathir did when he wanted to appoint me as his deputy.

"He called everybody to talk to them on the matter," he said.

The three vice-presidents are Najib, Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Dr Mahathir had announced that Abdullah would succeed him after he retired in October next year.

-- BERNAMA

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