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Najib: Leave DPM choice to Abdullah

PEKAN, Fri. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today it was best for his superiors in the party to advise on who becomes Deputy Prime Minister when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad resigns in October next year.

"Advise party members ... let's leave it to Pak Lah (Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) and the Prime Minister ... I'd rather not say anything."

Najib was asked to elaborate on his statement in Alor Star yesterday on the issue of who would succeed Abdullah as Deputy Prime Minister.

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, had admitted yesterday that he was surprised by Dr Mahathir's statement naming him (Najib) as the possible successor to Abdullah.

The Member of Parliament for Pekan, however, declined to speak further on the matter today when met by reporters after opening Pahang Perkim's AGM here. "Better not (to say anything) ... no further statements on this."