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NO DISCUSSION YET ON PARTY ELECTION - ABDULLAH

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Umno Supreme Council (MT) has yet to discuss whether the election for the party's highest decision-making body, scheduled for next year, be postponed.

"None, we have yet to discuss, yet to be raised even in the MT," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

Abdullah, who is also the Umno deputy president, was asked to comment on a news report which quoted a senior Umno leader as saying that the election for the MT was almost certain to be postponed until after the next general election.

The report, which did not name the senior party leader, said the move was to smoothen the leadership transition from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to his deputy, Abdullah after October 2003.

Dr Mahathir had said that he would step down from the prime minister's and Umno president's posts after chairing the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit scheduled for October next year and had named Abdullah as his successor.

Asked to confirm the report, Abdullah said: "I am not able to do so, making speculations on news from sources".

Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, had earlier attended the ministry's monthly gathering.

-- BERNAMA

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