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Mahathir-Reaction (Opposition)

PAS HOPES POWER TRANSITION DOESN'T AFFECT POLITICAL STABILITY

KUALA LUMPUR, June 25 (Bernama) -- PAS deputy president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang hopes political stability in the country will be maintained during the transition of power in the leadership of Barisan Nasional (BN) and the government.

"We hope the transition and change will be in the best manner so that it will not affect national politics," he said when met by reporters in Kuala Terengganu today.

Abdul Hadi is now PAS acting president following the death of party president Datuk Fadzil Noor on Sunday.

In KOTA BAHARU, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat called on the people to be open minded in accepting Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to resign from all posts in the party and government after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in October 2003.

"We must be open minded, just don't look at one person (leader) only," he said here today.

In MELAKA, DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said the long transition from Dr Mahathir to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who would only take over as Prime Minister in October next year, raised speculation.

"This is contrary to his (Dr Mahathir's) intention to step down from his posts immediately on Saturday after the Umno General Assembly...now he takes a long time," he said.

Kerk, who is also the member of parliament for Kota Melaka, said Dr Mahathir might have postponed his resignation because of the problems that Umno would face if he stepped down now.

Keadilan president Dr Wan Azizah Ismail congratulated Abdullah for being named as Dr Mahathir's successor and prayed that the Prime Minister would spend his holidays peacefully before his retirement.

However, she hoped Abdullah would take this opportunity to take basic measures to bring back democracy in administrative governance.

-- BERNAMA

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