

11 JUL 2002

By-elections/investors

TRANSITION OF POWER WILL NOT JEOPARDISE INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE, SAYS
NAJIB

ALOR SETAR, July 11 (Bernama) -- The 16-month transition of power for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to succeed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister will not jeopardise foreign investors' confidence in the country, said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak today.

"No at all, because it is not abrupt," he said of PAS's move in turning it into an issue in the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state by-elections.

PAS in its political ceramah yesterday claimed that during the transition period, the country would have two prime ministers and this would not augur well for the smooth flow of foreign investment.

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, told reporters here that it should not be the case because the transition of power would be smooth and orderly.

He also said that the Barisan Nasional (BN) government accepted criticisms from the people.

"But we don't accept criticism made by running down the country's leaders," he said.

Earlier, Najib visited the MCA operations room at the town of Anak Bukit before joining the BN campaigners in a door-to-door visit.

He was accompanied among others by Kedah MCA deputy chief Datuk Chor Chee Heung and other senior party leaders.

On the people's response to the BN campaign since yesterday in both constituencies, Najib said the feedback was encouraging.

"I am confident, especially from the Chinese community, that there would be solid support for the BN for what the government has done for them, the economy and education," he said.

-- BERNAMA
AT KHY ABG