

# Enough of retirement talk, says Pak Lah

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**KEPALA BATAS:** Don't talk about retirement until the job is done.

This is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's advice to all Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders, who have jumped on the "I'm ready to quit" bandwagon since Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that it would be better for everyone to resign as it will be easier for Abdullah to pick people for the cabinet and Umno posts when he becomes prime minister and Umno president once Mahathir steps down in October, Bernama reports.

Everyone should concentrate on their tasks and continue with the policies decided by Mahathir to ensure continued development instead of talking about retirement, Abdullah said.

"Any discussion on retirement was not proper because Mahathir was still leading the country," he said, responding to Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's suggestion that all members of Mahathir's cabinet resign when the prime minister retires in October to enable Abdullah, as the successor, to form his own cabinet.

"There is still much work that have yet to be completed and Dr Mahathir's leadership is still on at the moment. He is still prime minister until October and we have to concentrate on the tasks he had assigned to us as well as the policies that must be implemented," he said after attending the Kepala Batas MCA division Chinese New Year open house yesterday.

Abdullah said everyone, be they state assemblymen or ministers, must continue to appreciate the tasks assigned to them because now was not the time to think about retirement.

Describing the suggestion as Lim's personal opinion, Abdullah said he appreciated the moves by various quarters to give him an opportunity to arrange his government line-up after Mahathir's retirement and felt that they were made sincerely.

"I appreciate and understand the statements made. As such, I don't really question them," said Abdullah.

He said what was important was that all the present tasks must be completed first.

"After that, we will think about it."