

Youths, women urged to campaign for BN

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi says he hopes to see more youths and women actively campaigning for the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the coming general election.

"Our hope in the next polls (for a landslide victory) is certainly better than in 1999. Youths and women will give us the edge and make the difference," he said yesterday, adding that his only worry is over-confidence.

Asked to comment that many now see Umno and BN in a stronger position to face a general election, a confident Abdullah said: "What see? We *are* in a

stronger position." Pressed by reporters to give a hint on when to expect the general election, he said: "Of course, we cannot tell you when. I am still waiting to be inspired by a dream (on when to hold a general election)."

Responding to another question, Abdullah said: "Of course, I am looking forward to the task of leading BN ... I have also to make sure that I do it well, strong and effective."

On PAS's claims that it would capture Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Kubang Pasu seat, Abdullah said: "It is Dr Mahathir who is

retiring. Not the BN ... the party cannot retire.

"Dr Mahathir has also said he will remain an Umno member after he retires and help retain Kubang Pasu for Umno and BN. We will surely work very hard to defend Kubang Pasu ... the BN will soldier on."

Abdullah was responding to questions from reporters after flagging off a Peace Malaysia convoy at Putra World Trade Centre.

The convoy, comprising 111 participants on 67 superbikes and in 14 cars, will travel to Perlis, Penang and Perak and return to Dataran Merdeka on

Sunday.

It is organised in conjunction with the 10th session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to be held at the Putrajaya Convention Centre from tomorrow to Oct 18.

Abdullah said he would be meeting everyone, including Puteri Umno, on the importance for BN youths to display greater unity and cooperation "like what we are doing through Peace Malaysia".

To another questions, Abdullah said there were no plans to set up BN Puteri but "(my leadership) is the beginning of many more things to come".