

# Youth pledges to help BN win big

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Barisan Nasional Youth pledged its commitment to incoming chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday to do its best to help the coalition achieve a big win in the next general election.

"Many attended and said they were committed to contributing to Barisan's success. This is what I want to see. They gave me their pledge," Abdullah said after attending a Barisan Youth gathering at the Putra World Trade Centre.

The Deputy Prime Minister said although the coalition was currently very strong, they should not be overconfident.

"I told the Youth that they should not be so confident that they do not work. They have to work hard for our victory," he said.

Abdullah, currently Barisan deputy chairman, will become chairman when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad retires on Oct 31.

On whether he was looking forward to leading the coalition into the next elections, Abdullah said: "I have to look forward to the task of leading and it is not something I can avoid. It is something I must do and I'll make sure I do it well."

He said although politicians retired, parties did not and could not retire.

"So we must continue the struggle," he said.

On Dr Mahathir's Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat, he said members there had pledged to work hard to ensure that the Barisan candidate for the constituency wins and that the seat is retained by the coalition.

He noted that Dr Mahathir had said he would help the coalition campaign in the next elections.

"There is certainly no retiring from that kind of work," he added.

Abdullah, who is Deputy Prime Minister, said the Opposition was trying to cast aspersions on him by alleging that he had something to do with the high share prices of his son's firm Scomi on the stock market recently.

"I cannot make share prices go up and down. Shares of all oil and petroleum-listed companies went up and not just Scomi's. If it was only Scomi shares that went up then maybe people will ask, but all oil stocks went up. There is no manipulation whatsoever," he said.

Scomi, he said, was a public-listed firm with its own board of directors.