



# Abdullah doesn't mind taking in *STAR* 9, 6 OCT 2003 new blood

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will lead Barisan Nasional in the next general election, welcomes the intention of any veteran politician to make way for new faces.

The Deputy Prime Minister said such voluntary action would do a lot of good for the coalition.

"If there is space for new young faces to emerge and the veterans are willing to step down, it is a good development for Barisan," he told a press conference after hosting hi-tea for participants of the OIC Expo 2003 here yesterday.

He was responding to the advice by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for Barisan politicians who have been around for a long time to step aside and give way to new faces.

Abdullah said veteran politicians should take heed of Dr Mahathir's advice which he described as an honest one.

Asked if anyone had indicated they would step down, he said: "At the moment, no one has given any hint."

In Penang, Gerakan said it was not ready to let its president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik retire now as the party still needed his services.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, also the state chief minister, said party members unanimously wanted Dr Lim to stay on to continue to lead the party.

"Our president had indicated that he wanted to step down two years ago. But, we, as a party, requested him to stay on."