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Abdullah-Deputy

IT'S ONLY THE ARTIST'S IMPRESSION, SAYS ABDULLAH OF A MURAL OF HIM AND NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today Umno members should not speculate about the next deputy prime minister based on a wall painting near the entrance to the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The Umno deputy president, who will succeed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as prime minister at the end of the month, said he had no influence over the mural, which was the artist's impression.

"That's the artist impression," he said of the mural of him and the Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, spurring speculation that he had decided on would be his number two.

Speaking to reporters after attending the opening of the 50th general assembly of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) by Dr Mahathir here, Abdullah said, "Certainly, we don't make decision based on a painting."

On the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting on Oct 30, the last to be chaired by Dr Mahathir as Umno President, he said there was no special agenda as the MT wanted to give the opportunity to give his views.

"We will give time to Dr Mahathir to give his advice, views and so forth," he said.

He said the MT would appreciate and value what Dr Mahathir had to say, given his 22 years of experience as Prime Minister, Umno President and Barisan Nasional (BN) Chairman.

Asked whether Umno was preparing something special for Dr Mahathir, Abdullah said a special reception would be held after the Hari Raya Aidilfitri for Dr Mahathir, the date of which had yet to be fixed.

On the distribution of seats in the next general election, Abdullah said the party's management committee had yet to discuss the matter.

"I can't say because we haven't discussed it. But the distribution of seats will take into account the number of new seats, existing seats and we will decide on a distribution formula," he said, adding that the seats would be fairly distributed among the BN component parties.

-- BERNAMA

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