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Rafidah-DPM

ABDULLAH WILL NOT TAKE LONG TIME TO ANNOUNCE DEPUTY- RAFIDAH

KLANG, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz feels that incoming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will not take a long time to announce the name of the new Deputy Prime Minister.

"I do not think that Datuk Seri Abdullah will wait for a long time. We have to run this country," she said.

Rafidah, who is International Trade and Industry Minister, was speaking to reporters after opening the Ohtsuki Seiko (M) Sdn Bhd factory at Bandar Puncak Alam near here today.

She nevertheless expressed the hope that all groups would give the opportunity to the new Prime Minister to announce the name of his deputy at a time which he considered appropriate.

"It is up to Datuk Seri Abdullah...when he gets the vision, the inspiration to announce, let him announce," she said when asked about the public excitement over who would be the next Deputy Prime Minister.

Abdullah will become the fifth Malaysian Prime Minister when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad steps down on Friday.

Rafidah said even if the name of the new Deputy Prime Minister was not announced quickly, Abdullah could still administer the country "as the government machinery will continue to function and the new Prime Minister will have the support of all Cabinet members."

She also appealed to the three vice presidents Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib to keep to their pledge not to challenge whoever was chosen as the new Deputy Prime Minister.

"Hold to the pledge. We should not go back on our pledge," she said.

Rafidah said lobbying and promoting candidates should be avoided.

"Lobbying should not become a culture as this post is not something which is going begging but rather an award which required the shouldering of heavy responsibility," she added.

Rafidah said she had reminded Wanita Umno members not to be involved in any lobbying for the post of Deputy Prime Minister.

"I have sent the message to the Wanita...do not try and help any lobby. Instead join the BN and Umno lobby to win the election," she said.

Rafidah reiterated that Wanita Umno would support Abdullah's choice.

-- BERNAMA

LES MAI AAM