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DECISION ON CHIN PENG IS FINAL, SAYS ABDULLAH

KEPALA BATAS, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the decision not to allow former Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) secretary-general Chin Peng to return to Malaysia is final.

"I have made the decision and it is final," he told reporters when asked to comment on DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang's calls for Chin Peng's return.

Lim had appealed to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to allow the former CPM leader, who is living in exile in Thailand, to return to Malaysia before the prime minister retires on Oct 31.

"I have no more (to say as) I've already made my statement.

"I don't want to get into a debate (on the matter)," Abdullah, who is also MP for Kepala Batas, told reporters after visiting several flood evacuation centres in the constituency.

The request for Chin Peng's return has been met with protests from several quarters, especially ex-servicemen and families of those killed or maimed by communist terrorists during the Malayan Emergency from 1948 to 1960.

-- BERNAMA

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