

28 SEP 2003

Rafidah-Mahathir

IT WILL BE A SMOOTH TRANSITION- RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today expressed confidence that there will be a smooth transition of power from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi when the Prime Minister steps down on Oct 31.

There would be no problem whatsoever in the government organisation arising from the change in leadership of the country, she said.

Rafidah said power was already being gradually transferred to Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah as he had been shouldering several responsibilities of the Prime Minister when Dr Mahathir was not in the country.

Rafidah, who is Minister of International Trade and Industry in Dr Mahathir's Cabinet, said Abdullah was already chairing several Cabinet Committees and he had the support and assistance of Cabinet ministers.

"We have a collective Cabinet, hence there will be no problem over the transition of power," she told reporters after attending a function organised by Wanita Umno here.

She said all members of the government should help and support the new Prime Minister just as they did for Dr Mahathir.

Rafidah nevertheless said Dr Mahathir's absence in the Cabinet would be very much felt, still Umno would not lose Dr Mahathir's services as he had pledged to be with Umno even after retirement.

-- BERNAMA

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