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Abdullah-Security

ABDULLAH CHAIRS FIRST NSC MEETING AS PRIME MINISTER

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who chaired the National Security Council (NSC) meeting for the first time today following his appointment as Prime Minister, is satisfied with the security situation in the country.

NSC Secretary Datuk Jaafar Ismail, who is Director-General of the National Security Division, said that at the meeting, Abdullah raised several points to further improve the performance of the NSC to ensure the security of the country.

"Several points have been raised by him and we have taken note and will deal with them," he told reporters after the four-hour meeting at the Prime Minister's Office here.

Jaafar declined to disclose the points raised but said that they were all in the interest of the nation.

Among those present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman and Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Mohamed Bakri Omar.

Abdullah was appointed Malaysia's fifth Prime Minister last Friday, succeeding Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who stepped down after leading the nation for 22 years.

According to his aides, Abdullah, who was Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, has also assumed the post of Finance Minister.

Jaafar said that Abdullah, who is now National Operations Director, was briefed on the national security situation and asked many questions.

"I feel that our new Prime Minister was receptive to all these. I also think that the briefing was satisfactory to him as Pak Lah, as the Deputy Prime Minister previously, is quite used to such meetings.

"And he was also involved in several committees as Deputy Prime Minister. As such, he understood full well matters related to national security which is definitely under control," he said.

Today's meeting was fully aware of the smooth handover of power.

Jaafar said that the kidnapping incident involving six foreign workers at the Borneo Paradise Eco Farm Resort in Kunak, Sabah, last month was also raised at the meeting which was briefed on the latest development by Najib.

"We have yet to ascertain the report that five of them are dead, that they are actually dead," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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