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Abdullah ready to lead BN in next election

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he is prepared to lead the Barisan National in the next general election.

"Of course, I am ready," he said when asked if he was prepared to lead the BN to win the next general election.

Asked if the elections will be held next year, Abdullah said: "We have to see first. The Prime Minister has commented on this. There's really no need to ask me."

Yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he had not made up his mind when the next election should be held, but reiterated his decision that he will not lead BN by then.

Abdullah spoke after launching the Bukit Aman Police Family Day at the Lake Gardens, here today.

Asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement that there were some parties who wanted the Prime Minister to retire earlier than October, he said there was no need to elaborate on "what PM had said".

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that there were people who still doubted his decision to retire in October while some wanted him to step down earlier.

Abdullah was also asked on the recent news report that a businessman called "Mr Lim" had threatened several loan sharks by telling them that he was the adopted son of the Deputy Prime Minister.

"I do not have an adopted son. Many people are using my name for all kinds of things. Please, do not believe all this," he said.

Earlier, Abdullah, together with Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Norian Mai and police personnel, participated in a 20-minute aerobic workout before he launched the Family Day.