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Abdullah to be firm and fair

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Barisan Nasional deputy chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today said he will be firm and fair when deciding on the Barisan Nasional candidates for the next general election.

Speaking at a dinner with leaders of State BN component parties here tonight, he said only those who had shown commitment to the BN and had worked very hard for the people would be chosen.

As such, he said all BN elected representatives must continue to work hard and not to allow any feeling or fear of not being renominated to contest in the next State elections to affect them.

Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said they must strive to fulfill the pledges they made to the people in the last general election.

"I shall certainly have a role in deciding the list of candidates and the assessment of candidates will be based on his or her performance over the years."

Abdullah is scheduled to succeed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.