

Abdullah keeps polls speculation at bay

KUANTAN: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi declined to be dragged into feeding speculations as to when the next general election would be called.

"I have not had any inspiration yet," he told reporters during a press conference here yesterday.

A reporter posed the question, noting that the Prime Minister had just come back from his holidays.

As to whether civil servants would be getting any bonus this year, Abdullah said that the matter had not been discussed yet.

He added that the bonus was not a privilege or a right, unlike salary increments.

"They have the right to salary

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increments which is why they are getting the increase now, but issuing bonuses is up to the Government.

"If the money is there, there will be a bonus. Otherwise, no bonus."

On the appointment of the next Chief Judge of Malaya, he said he had already nominated the candidates.

However, Chief Justice Tun Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim would be the best person to ask about the candidate, he added.

In April, Ahmad Fairuz was reported to have said that he had discussed the appointment of the next Chief Judge of Malaya with the Prime Minister. The position has been vacant since Tan Sri Siti Norma Yaakob retired early this year.