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# PM: Not practical now to merge BN parties

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**KEPALA BATAS:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said it was not the right time to merge Barisan Nasional's 14 component parties into one.

"I do not say that it is impossible but right now, it is not practical."

Abdullah, who is BN chairman, said he saw no compelling reason for the component parties to be consolidated into a single entity.

Speaking after presenting Hari Raya aid at his Kepala Batas ser-

vice centre here yesterday, Abdullah said a change would have been needed if the BN was weak but, on the contrary, it was not.

"The coalition is doing well and producing the desired results. All the parties are happy with each other. They understand each other and if there is any problem, it is resolved amicably."

Abdullah was commenting on a call by Gerakan Youth for a merger of the BN component parties into a single party to end racial manipulation in politics.

Gerakan Youth chief Datuk Mah Siew Keong re-floated the idea,

which has been voiced intermittently over the years by several former BN leaders, at the party's Youth and Wanita conference on Friday.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is also BN deputy chairman, had on Saturday said any move to merge the BN components must first have the full support of the grassroots.

Najib said the creation of a single party was not a decision that could be made without regard to the sentiments of party members.

On the 100-odd families displaced by the 2004 tsunami not

being able to move into their new homes, Abdullah said they should already have done so.

"It has been announced that the victims could move into the houses, so why are they yet to do so?"

"They have been verified as eligible recipients and have fulfilled all the requirements. Therefore they should be allowed to stay in their new homes."

The affected families were supposed to move in, in time to celebrate Hari Raya in their new homes, but the ceremony to hand over the keys had been postponed.