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Abdullah: Walkovers sign of confidence in BN

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KEPALA BATAS: The walkover victories by Barisan Nasional at the close of nominations indicate the level of public confidence in the coalition, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

"I have yet to receive the details but this is good news.

"It is a sign of confidence in the party," he said after filing his nomination papers at the Dewan Millenium here.

Expressing confidence that BN

would be able to retain its two-thirds majority this general election, Abdullah said he wanted the campaign period to proceed without incident.

"I want this election to be free of trouble and one that is done properly. I know the Election Commission has many years of experience and they will do their best to make sure this election is credible and democratic."

Abdullah expressed satisfaction no trouble was reported anywhere during nominations.

On the BN candidates, Abdul-

lah said the party had gone to great lengths to ensure only credible individuals were selected.

"They were vetted not only by the party but also by the Anti-Corruption Agency, police and Insolvency Department.

"One candidate was dropped after we found that he had a criminal case pending."

Asked if the new cabinet would be shrunk if the BN formed the next government, Abdullah said it was too early for him to respond.

To another question on rejuvenating his post-election cabinet,

Abdullah said the new cabinet would comprise a combination of old and new faces.

On the rising cost of living being turned into an election issue, Abdullah said the BN would explain to the people what had been done to lessen their burden.

Abdullah said the electoral pact agreed by the opposition parties to ensure straight fights against the BN in most seats was one of convenience to give the BN a hard time.

"They all have different ideologies and opposing views. You cannot form a government like that."