

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 16/1/2008

General election may be held next year, says Abdullah

NST- 16/1/2008

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi played down the frenzy over the upcoming general election, saying it could be held next year.

Speaking on Monday night at the Intercontinental Hotel, where he is staying, he said he had done nothing yet about the elections.

Abdullah said there was still one more year to prepare for the polls and urged the people

not to be impatient.

He said the elections could be called at any time between now and March, or even in March next year.

The prime minister was answering questions from reporters after announcing that he would be in Senegal in March to hand over the chairmanship of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

He was asked if elections would be announced before he left for the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar slated for the middle of March.

"Some people are impatient and want the elections to be held quickly but we still have one more year before completing the mandate.

"And this one-year period is the time to prepare for the elections," he said.