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Abdullah: I'll not shirk my duty

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi reiterated yesterday that he had been given the mandate to form the government even though the Barisan Nasional won with only a simple majority in the 12th general election.

He said he would not shun his responsibility to lead the nation as he had the support of the Umno and BN leadership.

Abdullah was asked about

rumours of a vote of no-confidence against him in the coming Umno general assembly.

"I have been given the mandate to form the government. I will not shirk my responsibility and am not under pressure."

Abdullah said Umno had no plans to hold an extraordinary general meeting to examine its performance.

Veteran Umno politician Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah

was said to have sent letters to several Umno division leaders, requesting them to attend a meeting on May 11 to discuss the leadership of the party.

On his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Razak, he said he was on the best of terms with the latter. Asked on claims that Najib was involved in corruption. "There is no evidence to show that he is involved. People make all sorts of accusations."