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Parliament won't be dissolved today, says PM

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BANGI: Parliament will not be dissolved today. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi put an end to such speculation, telling reporters here yesterday: "*Esok tak ada* (No, it won't be tomorrow)".

He also denied that today's Cabinet meeting would be the last with his present team of ministers before Parliament is dissolved to pave the way for the next general election.

"What makes you think that? How do you know it's going to be the last Cabinet meeting (before elections are called)?" he asked when responding to a question.

Asked if there would be more Cabinet meetings with the present team, Abdullah said: "Yes, there will be more."

The Cabinet meets every Wednesday. The Prime Minister's comments yesterday means it is still a guessing game as to when the polls would be called.

Abdullah, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, also said there would be no compromise in picking only clean candidates.

"In the last elections (2004), there were some people who were potential candidates, but they were being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA). Their files were with the ACA, so I did not choose them," he said.

He said he wanted a clean team of candidates and would ask the ACA to run a check on some of the potential candidates.

"I will get a report from the ACA, whether they are clear or not," he said.

However, he would not be handing over a list of potential candidates to the ACA. "*Nanti orang tahu susah pulak* (It might be difficult if the names became known)."

Instead, he would ask the ACA to run checks on individuals here and there.

On the Election Commission's move to allow recounts if there were a 4% difference in the winning vote, instead of a mere 2% as had been the practice, Abdullah said the ruling coalition accepted the decision.

"We follow whatever the EC decides," he added.