

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING  
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

THE STAR

DATE: 16/04/2008

## Some veterans back Abdullah, others want handover

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Umno Veterans Association has pledged support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as party leader and Prime Minister and asked him not to quit.

However, Mubarak, the association of former Barisan Nasional MPs and assemblymen, which has many members who are also Umno Veterans members, said it backed a handover from Abdullah to his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Abdullah here yesterday,

Umno Veterans Association chairman Tan Sri Tajuddin Ali said he told the Prime Minister that he "must stand firm and never be shaken by anybody."

"If anyone moves a vote of no confidence against him, it would be a futile one for sure," he said.

Tajuddin described the present discourse going on in Umno over its performance in the March 8 general elections as an effort to "cure hiccups with some good medicine."

On whether Umno members were

*The Star - 16/4/2008*  
making this move to ensure Umno's survival, he said: "We have given Pak Lah full mandate, full confidence and he must stay there. He has got every right to stay there."

Meanwhile, Mubarak president Tan Sri Abu Zahar Ujang, who was also at yesterday's meeting with the Prime Minister, denied that his association gave its support to Abdullah and wanted him to stay on.

"We support the transition process that Pak Lah himself has mentioned to restore public and

Umno members' confidence.

"We are certain that Pak Lah is sensitive to the current situation on the ground. It is best that the sacrifice (handover of power) is made in a systematic and gentlemanly manner," he said.

Abu Zahar said Mubarak was maintaining the stance it had made on March 20 after a meeting with Abdullah.

He said Mubarak was planning to hold a closed-door meeting with Abdullah soon.