

Barisan can form the next govt

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Abdullah to seek audience with the King tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional can form a government based on the first results of the general election, which gave the coalition a simple majority, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Barisan chairman said he would seek an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong tomorrow to request the consent to form the Government.

"I will issue a statement and give my views after everything is over. That is all I have to say," a tired-looking Abdullah told reporters at the 39th floor of the PWTC here last night.

In a five-minute press conference which began at 2.21am, the Prime Minister was asked many questions from the packed floor.

Asked for his opinion on the people having denied the Barisan a two-thirds majority, Abdullah said:

"At the moment it's not two-thirds.

"We'll see what happens when an announcement is made."

On whether the loss of several Barisan-held seats meant that



the people were sending a message that they were unhappy with the Government, Abdullah said:

"Maybe. There are a lot of messages from the people. What's important is that I will speak about these matters."

Asked whether there was any pressure from Umno for him to resign, Abdullah replied:

"I don't know who is pressuring me. There's no pressure for me (to resign) at this time."

On the implications to the Barisan of the losses by component parties, Abdullah said the losses had to be accepted.

"*Dah kalah, kalahlah* (If it's a loss, it's a loss)," he replied.



Stating the facts: Abdullah speaking to reporters at PWTC this morning. With him are (from right) his wife Jeanne, deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Najib's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor. — Bernama

Sombre mood at Umno headquarters

KUALA LUMPUR: The mood was sombre at Umno headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre here last night following the unexpected losses by the Barisan Nasional.

Only a couple of hundred of Barisan supporters were seen in the hall.

Some supporters cheered and clapped each time the election results featured on the giant screen showed that Barisan had won.

However, one of the supporters was seen sobbing when Barisan was losing.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi arrived with his wife Datin Seri Jeanne and son Kamaluddin at 10.15pm while Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak arrived with Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor at 11.40pm.