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Abdullah snuffs talk of rift and Umno no-confidence motion

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has stressed that there is no rift between him and his deputy and that their relationship is good.

"I have the best of relationships with deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib (Tun Razak). Why are you asking me this?" he said, when responding to questions yesterday at a press conference to announce the new Cabinet line-up.

Asked why his deputy was not present, the Prime Minister retorted that Najib had not yet been sworn in as the Deputy Prime Minister.

"He will be the DPM only tomorrow. You want to read into so many things, yah?" he said.

He defended Najib, saying that the Opposition's allegations of corruption against his deputy were baseless.

"There is no proof and nothing to show that Najib is involved in any

corrupt activities. One can always make all sorts of allegations. And you know that the person making all these allegations is also not free from allegations and accusations.

"People can talk about evidence that comes in boxes but where is the proof? I have the latest information from the ACA and the police," he said when asked to react to PKR adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's allegations about Najib.

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On speculation that Umno would move a motion of no confidence against Abdullah as their leader, he dismissed it, saying that as far as he was concerned, he had been given a strong mandate.

On the letter sent by Umno veteran leader Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah asking divisions to urge for an extraordinary general assembly to discuss the "shocking" polls results, Abdullah said there were no plans for

such a gathering of Umno members.

He added this time the emphasis would be on vigorous implementation of projects and policies.

"I have heard many times, from people and from reading articles, that Pak Lah (Abdullah) had worked out the policies and good projects but was short on implementation," he said.

"This time we will deliver," he promised.