

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

THE SUN

DATE: 03/04/2008

PM: I won't run away from responsibility

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday denied speculations that he would step down as prime minister.

He reiterated that he would not run away from his responsibility as prime minister.

"I am here. I am here. I am here. They make all the speculations that I want to run away, I've resigned. Why should I resign?"

"My government has got a strong majority (although) not the two-thirds (majority), but very strong ... that is the stand of support. Why I must run away from my entrusted responsibility?" he told Bernama after meeting Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Said at his office.

Speculations on the matter arose following calls by some leaders, including his predecessor Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, that Abdullah should step down to assume responsibility for the Barisan Nasional's poor showing in last month's general election.

The BN lost its long-held two-thirds majority in Parliament after winning only 140 of the 222 parliamentary seats. It also lost control of Penang, Perak, Selangor and Kedah besides failing to regain Kelantan from PAS.

Abdullah's lack of public appearance lately also lent credence to the speculation.

Meanwhile, Abdullah said after the 45-minute meeting with Ahmad at the PM's Office that he was satisfied with the 10-member Terengganu executive council list submitted to him.

"During the discussion, we ensured that all the districts in Terengganu are represented in the line-up. That is important," he said.

He, however, declined to give details of the line-up as it has not received the consent of the Terengganu Regency Advisory Council.

He said at the meeting, he reminded Ahmad to be humble and friendly with the people.

"I also told him to work hard and add value to the state's achievements made during the leadership of Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh ... I said, 'don't be arrogant but be people-friendly'."