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Pak Lah: I didn't know of rape claim earlier

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has clarified that he only came to know about the allegation of rape involving a minister recently.

That was why he commented about it only on Saturday.

He said yesterday that he had not said anything earlier because he was not informed of the allegation.

Abdullah said he had responded on Saturday because the media asked him about the allegation, which appeared in several blogs, that Information, Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim raped his former maid in 2007.

He said he had said nothing else and would like to disassociate himself from other references in an earlier report quoting him on the allegation. — Bernama