

**Pak Lah on his forty winks**  
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**BY JENNIFER GOMEZ**

Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (pic) has explained in his book that the reason he kept "dozing off on the job" was due to a medical condition called sleep apnea.

In his new book "Awakening, the Abdullah Badawi years in Malaysia", Abdullah who had often been criticized for his forty winks, said that his late wife Endon Mahmood and colleagues had told him about his tendency to doze off, reported Malaysiakini.

He then sought medical attention and consulted his doctor friend in Putrajaya Hospital, where a sleep study was done on him.

"The doctors warned me to take this seriously. I then went to Australia (in 2007) for surgery to remove the polyps in my nose that was causing me to have breathing difficulties," he said.

Abdullah, who succeeded Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2003, also said in his book that he had told his former boss Mahathir about his condition.

"I did tell Mahathir of my condition so for him to say I doze off because I am not interested in the job is most unkind.

"He knew the problem and yet he chose to say all these things," he added.

Mahathir had played a pivotal role in causing Abdullah to relinquish his post following Barisan Nasional's dismal performance in the 2008 elections.

During Abdullah's reign as prime minister, Mahathir launched a series of vitriolic salvos against Abdullah and the latter's son-in-law Khairy Jamaluddin.

Political rivals both within and outside BN had made fun of Abdullah's frequent slumber episodes, while photographs of him napping during official functions were also circulated online.

During a protest outside the prime minister's official residence in 2008, a group of activists had presented him with a pillow, stating that the nation was headed for peril while Abdullah continued sleeping, it was reported.

The book will hit the stands later this month. - August 6, 2013

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