

He's not a one-term PM

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PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi stresses he is not a one-term Prime Minister, as some critics had speculated, saying: "I will not run away."

What he needs, he said, is time to see to it that current and future plans are carried out for the benefit of the people and the country. He said it would certainly take more than just one term to carry out those plans.

"I will not run away. I am here to stay. I have long-term plans.

"I am working to ensure the projects are carried out," he told *Mingguan Malaysia* in a

recent interview at his official residence, Sri Perdana, here ahead of the 57th Umno general election, which begins today.

Abdullah, who is Umno president, said he would not allow accusations against him to derail the country's development plans, including the 9th Malaysia Plan, the next 50-year phase and Vision 2020.

Conceding that he was aware of the criticisms, he said the views expressed by some professionals stemmed from their doubts of whether these development plans could work.

Besides that, he added, some contractors and business people were edgy because they perceived there was a lack of projects.

"But I would like to say that at the time I took over the country's leadership, the construction sector was at the level of minus growth," the Prime Minister said.

He added: "But now, only five months after the 9MP was announced, we have started projects here and there."

■ **Mohd Ali: Delegates will be respectful - N12**