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PM: Transition plan a done deal

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■ By Hamidah Atan and Farrah Naz Karim
news@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: The June 2010 transition plan for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to hand over to Datuk Seri Najib Razak was agreed upon to put an end to political uncertainty after the March 8 general election.

The prime minister and Umno president said the plan, which was endorsed by Umno, was accepted by the cabinet and embraced by Barisan Nasional leaders following the emergence of issues that could create political instability and unpredictability.

"Umno was restless and uneasy and everyone knew about this. So, it was only right that a decision be made to put an end to all of this."

Abdullah, who is BN chairman, said that he and Najib had discussed the plan and agreed to it.

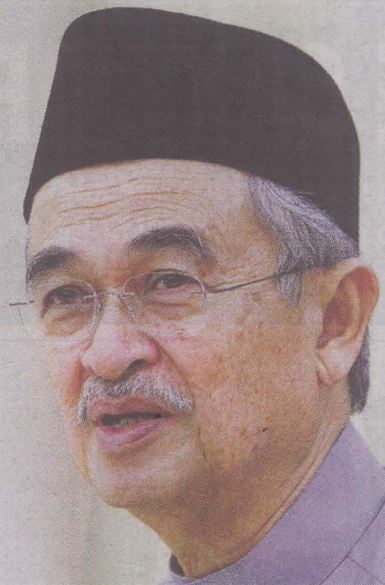
"Endorsement was obtained from the government and the cabinet. This brought about a stable situation in terms of the transfer of power. I do not see why we have to talk about this (plan) again.

"If we do, there will be campaigns; people going here and there, getting feedback from the divisions. There will be those who want the plan to take effect but there will also be those who will want the period shortened," Abdullah, told a press conference after chairing a Khazanah Nasional meeting at the Finance Ministry yesterday in his capacity as finance minister.

"There will be lots of tale-telling. We want to stabilise the country's political situation with the intention and objective of paying

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Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi



greater attention to the needs of the people.”

Abdullah said the people wanted the government to concentrate fully on development.

“They want us to pay attention to their needs and we have to overcome the many problems that crop up from time to time, including economic issues. This is what the people want.

“The people do not want us to spend all our time politicking as then there will be no solution to their problems. This is one thing that all of us should think about if we want a stable situation.

“We must think of the people, not just about ourselves and our politics.”

Abdullah said he had expressed his opinion on the statements is-

sued by Umno leaders and “I do not think I have anything to add”.

“I have said enough. For the party's sake and for political stability, we must spend more time on the needs of the people. Actually, the people are getting fed up with all these unending stories.

“Some of the letters I received asked me why we still have not solved our political issues.”

On Wednesday, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was reported to have asked Abdullah to rethink his transition plan to step down in 2010 as the timeframe was too long.

Abdullah had expressed surprise and disappointment over Muhyiddin's statement, given that the transition plan had been agreed to.