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Abdullah: Govt means business

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PUTRAJAYA: The government made a thorough evaluation before invoking the Internal Security Act against blogger Raja Petra Kamaruddin.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, speaking on the blogger's arrest yesterday, said the government always meant business when dealing with potential threats to the country's stability.

He said the move was made after Raja Petra had been given time to correct the offensive postings on his Malaysia Today website.

"The government always means business. We don't joke around," Abdullah said after a Khazanah Nasional board meeting at the Finance Ministry yesterday.

"The government has a degree of tolerance and we consider whether action should be taken immediately or a

particular issue should be further studied to consider its repercussions and effects on society."

"It (invoking the ISA) is not done without a concrete reason and a belief that stability and public order could be threatened."

He said Home Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, who was responsible for signing the detention order, had been closely monitoring Raja Petra's writings and actions.

"In making sure that public order is not affected by his (Raja Petra's) actions, Syed Hamid decided to allow the police to detain the blogger for 60 days pending investigations.

"After 60 days, if there is nothing (to implicate him), he will be freed. Otherwise, he will be further detained under the orders of the home minister."