

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in discussions with Datuk Seri Najib Razak at Seri Perdana yesterday. — Bernama picture

## 2010 transition timetable stays, says PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** There will be no change to the timetable for Datuk Seri Najib Razak to take over as prime minister and Umno president from Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in 2010.

Abdullah and his deputy Najib met for close to three hours at Seri Perdana yesterday to discuss a wide range of matters, including the transition plan.

"The was no new decision to change the date for the transition. Not at this moment. What has been decided (the transition in 2010) remains," Abdullah said in Kuala Terengganu later.

The meeting took place at the

prime minister's official residence, Seri Perdana.

Najib had cancelled his morning appointment, a Defence Ministry function to officially accept new quarters for the army at the Wardieburn Camp here.

It is learnt that both leaders discussed the transition plan announced last June, which will see Najib succeed Abdullah in June 2010.

Yesterday's meeting apparently was the third between the two leaders over the last few days.

The meetings came following a call by Minister of International Trade and Industry Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin last week for the

transition to be speeded up.

He suggested that Najib take over as soon as possible for Umno and Barisan Nasional to start rebuilding the coalition.

Najib said the decision taken by the supreme council on the transition plan had to be endorsed by Umno members through their divisional meetings, which begin next month.

The outcome of the meetings between Abdullah and Najib is expected to be announced after the Umno supreme council meeting on Sept 18.

On Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's purported takeover of the government today, Abdullah repeat-

ed that it would not happen.

"After the 16th, he will say that it will happen on the 20th, and if it does not happen, then he will push it to the 30th and if it still does not happen, he will say that it will happen next year or the following year.

"He likes to watch people jump."

At the breaking of fast at the Abidin Mosque, he urged people not to believe in misleading information.

"In this month of Ramadan, we should be talking about improving our spiritual understanding of the religion and not talk nonsense."