

THE STAR

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Abdullah is surprised

Muhyiddin had agreed to the 2010 transition plan, says PM

PUTRAJAYA: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was surprised over Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's call for him to reconsider the 2010 transition plan, saying this had been agreed upon by the Cabinet and Umno.

"The Cabinet had understood it (the transition plan) and agreed. The Umno supreme council had also agreed on that.

"I am surprised a member of my Cabinet has come up with that kind of statement and gone against what has been agreed upon," the Prime Minister said after chairing the 20th MSC Malaysia Implementation Council meeting here yesterday.

On Wednesday, Muhyiddin, who is the International Trade and Industry Minister and Umno vice-president, said Abdullah should rethink his transition plan to step down by 2010 as the time frame was too long.

Muhyiddin was quoted as saying that the transition plan revealed by the Prime Minister two months ago had "sunk away" and that people were not thinking about it any more.

Under the transition plan, Abdullah is to hand over the post of Prime Minister, chairmanship of Barisan Nasional and Umno presidency to his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in June 2010.

Abdullah clarified that he was not staying on as Prime Minister "for the pleasure of it" but because there was still a lot of work for him to do and lots of problems to attend to.



Going forward: (From left) Najib and Abdullah witnessing the exchange of documents between UiTM Vice-Chancellor Datuk Seri Prof Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah and MDeC chairman Datuk Badlisham Ghazali after the MSC Council meeting in Putrajaya yesterday.

"There are also a lot of programmes that I have indicated and planned that I must do my best to complete, including reforms of the judiciary, the Anti-Corruption Agency and also the police force."

The Prime Minister said he had also pledged to eradicate hardcore poverty and there was still a lot of work to be done to reform Barisan Nasional so that the coalition would have a "bigger capacity" to serve the people.

"As for Umno, there is also a lot more

to be done. I have made it my responsibility to undertake it," he said.

On whether he would ask Muhyiddin to explain his statement, Abdullah said: "There is no need to ask me what I am going to do."

Asked to comment on talk that several Barisan Nasional assemblymen in Negri Sembilan would cross over to the Opposition, Abdullah said reporters should not lend credibility to such rumours by asking him to comment on it.

"You ask me to comment on

rumours. Enough lah ... banyak sangat (too many) rumours. You are creating credibility to all these rumours by asking people to comment on them. Let rumours be rumours," he said.

