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Pak Lah calls Anwar's bluff



High-level meet: Abdullah getting ready to chair the meeting with secretaries-general at his office yesterday. With him are Najib and Chief Secretary to Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan (right).

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has described Opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's claims of having enough Barisan Nasional MPs to form a Government as a mirage and a dream.

Abdullah also threw a challenge to Anwar to reveal the names of the Barisan MPs who had agreed to support him.

"I don't think he has the names. If he does, I don't think he would wait to inform the people.

"If he has the names, he can reveal it and let all Malaysians know. They

want to know because the people voted them in as MPs and they want to know whether the MPs are running away, doing something else or joining another party," he told a press conference.

Earlier, he handed out Hari Raya Aidilfitri aid to the poor and contribution to students who gained entry into local institutions of higher learning at Kepala Betas in Penang yesterday.

When asked if he would entertain Anwar's request to have a meeting to ensure a smooth and peaceful transition of power, Abdullah rejected the idea.

"There is no reason for me to meet him because I don't think he has the names. He is just getting the people to focus on him and his political ploy. I do not need to see him," he reiterated.

He also scoffed at Anwar's suggestion that Barisan MPs would be detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) if they crossed over to Pakatan Rakyat.

"How can he suggest that? It is crazy, that I would arrest and put these people under ISA simply because of their decision (to cross over).

"No such thing. It is just to portray me of using force and a dictator,"

said Abdullah.

"He sent me a letter about current issues in the country. That is a different matter and should not be lumped together (with the letter of smooth transition)," he said.

Earlier in Putrajaya, Abdullah said he did not feel pressured by Anwar.

"Why should I be pressured, this is Anwar's mirage, he sees something but it is nothing, there is nothing there, it is only a dream," he told reporters after meeting with secretaries-general of ministries at his office which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Najib Tun Razak.

Abdullah added that when Anwar wants to make known something he would ensure there are many people gathered to hear it.

"That is his behaviour and later the whole world would know his message. You think he will be requesting me to discuss? He will storm into my room with hundreds of people screaming behind him 'victory'," he said.

Abdullah said he was sure that the date of takeover would be constantly changed until there is actually nothing in the end.