

THE STAR

DATE: 19/9/2008

Pak Lah 'no' to request

PM will not convene emergency Parliament session

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Fielding questions: (From left) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Mohd Ali, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Abdullah and Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor attending a press conference after the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has brushed aside the call to convene an emergency session of Parliament as the Dewan Rakyat will be sitting soon, anyway.

Responding to a call by Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for an emergency session by Tuesday to enable the Opposition to table a no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister, Abdullah said:

"After Ramadan, Parliament will sit again. So take advantage of the meeting to do anything."

Addressing a press conference

after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre, the Prime Minister was also asked whether the Government planned to invoke the Internal Security Act (ISA) against Anwar.

"There are no plans to use the ISA against anybody. I didn't say anything to anyone. So, if someone feels that he will be detained under ISA, maybe he feels guilty. I don't know about that."

Abdullah had earlier this week described Anwar as a threat to national security and the economy because of his lies, which he said

were affecting the investment climate.

On the letter addressed to him by Anwar, he said he would look at it first because it was "a long statement and not a letter".

"It is just a press statement. Proposals like this should be submitted in the form of a letter, not a press statement. It must be done according to procedure," said Abdullah.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said Anwar was trying to divert the people's attention to cover his weaknesses and failure to take over the Federal

Government by Sept 16 as he had pledged.

He said Anwar was just creating "media attention" to get people to talk about him.

"The Government need not entertain him. He should wait for the next five years. It is utter nonsense that Anwar has 30 Barisan MPs.

"If he has 30 MPs, he should march to Parliament with them. He doesn't even have one name," Mohd Ali said, adding that the Permatang Pauh MP should concentrate on taking care of his parliamentary constituency rather than "talking nonsense".