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RAJA ARIFFIN HAS HANDED IN RESIGNATION LETTER

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 12 (Bernama) -- Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Raja Datuk Ariffin Raja Sulaiman said today he has submitted his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the letter was submitted after the Umno general assembly last month but so far he had not received an official reply from Dr Mahathir,

Asked why he was resigning, he said "For personal reasons. I want to do something different from my duties in the government and I want to retire from the post of deputy minister. That is all."

"I will continue with my political struggle and I am still Baling Umno division leader and an Umno supreme council member," he told reporters at the Parliament House lobby, here.

On rumours that he was resigning to make way for Umno Youth leader to be appointed to the government administration, he said: "It is the prime minister's prerogative to appoint anyone."

One of Raja Ariffin's assistants issued a statement in Alor Setar three days ago saying that Raja Ariffin had submitted his resignation letter to Dr Mahathir. -- BERNAMA

HS JK