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MAHATHIR HOPEFUL NEW JAPANESE GOVT WILL LOOK INTO PROBLEMS IN SEA

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed the hope that the Japanese government and its new leadership will pay attention to problems in Southeast Asia.

Commenting on the resignation of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, he said: " We are shocked that he lost so badly."

"Nevertheless, we hope the Japanese government and its new leadership will look into the problems in Southeast Asia," he told reporters after opening the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Hospital in Bandar Tun Razak, Cheras, near here.

Hashimoto resigned as Japan's Prime Minister and president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday following his party's humiliating defeat in the Senate elections.

The LDP retained only 44 of its 61 seats in the elections -- its worst result since the 1989 polls.

-- BERNAMA

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