

Resignation is to prevent further allegations: PM

11 AUG 2000

By **R. Manirajan**
manirajan@thesundaily.com

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Selangor Umno committee has agreed that Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar's resignation should be made now to prevent all kinds of allegations being made.

"I have discussed the matter with the state Umno and explained to them the situation and they all agreed that he should resign now.

"If he does not resign now, more allegations will be made against him," he said when asked if he would ask Abu Hassan to reconsider his decision.

This morning, an Umno delegation led by former menteri besar and Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib met Mahathir at his office here.

Mahathir, who is also Umno president, was speaking to reporters after a briefing for about 250 Information Department officers from all

the states on how to tackle allegations made against the country by the foreign media.

He said the Selangor Umno will be submitting names of potential candidates to him.

"If there are other names I see as suitable, that decision will be Umno's," he added.

Abu Hassan met the Prime Minister at Seri Perdana at 5.30pm yesterday to convey his intention to resign.

Speculation surrounding Abu Hassan swirled in Selangor political circles over the past month, when anonymous letters started circulating about his personal affairs.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said after the meeting that Abu Hassan's decision to resign was his own choice.

This afternoon, several Umno leaders were seen at the Prime Minister's office.

At 3.30pm, Muhammad Taib came again with Ulu Bernam MP Zainal Sakom and one Datuk Aini Taib to see Tanjung Karang MP and Prime Minister's Department parliamentary secretary, Nor Omar.