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Selangor MB resigns? Large gathering at residence

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SHAH ALAM, Wed. - Unconfirmed reports about the resignation of Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar as Selangor Menteri Besar triggered a large gathering of Barisan Nasional Assemblymen and supporters at his official residence here tonight.

There had been increasing talk about his departure from office earlier today, which prompted several BN MPs and State Assemblymen to seek confirmation by visiting Abu Hassan at his residence in Section 7 as early as 9.30pm.

Among those spotted were Selangor Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Zainal Abidin Ahmad (Dusun Tua) who was seen entering the residence at 11.35pm.

Earlier, Speaker Datuk Seri Onn Ismail, State Secretary Ambrin Buang and Executive Councillor Datuk K. Sivalingam (Ijok) were also seen entering the residence.

It is not immediately known why Abu Hassan is said to have resigned, but several Opposition Assemblymen had questioned his credibility at the State Assembly sitting on Monday.

When met outside the residence, Zainal Abidin, when asked to confirm the speculation, was non-committal, but said: "Maybe something had developed ... but let's wait until tomorrow."

However, he said the MB definitely looked "upset" and he did not have the heart to pester Abu Hassan for an answer.

Zainal Abidin said he heard that there was a large crowd at the MB's residence and came to "check it out", just like the others.

Abu Hassan is scheduled to hold a Press conference at his office at 2.30pm tomorrow.

MP for Kapar, Komala Krishnamoorthy, who was also at the residence, said she got a telephone call from a senior MIC leader at 11pm informing her that he, too, had heard that Abu Hassan had tendered his resignation.

She said the State MIC fully supported the Menteri Besar and would request that he stay on if it was true that he had resigned.

Ambrin, when asked by reporters to comment on the gathering, was also non-committal, but said that the Menteri Besar was visibly disturbed.

Shah Alam OCPD Azmi Askor was present to supervise traffic and the crowd as vehicles were gradually building up in numbers in and around the MB's residence.

About 70 cars had gathered by midnight but Pressmen were not allowed into the residence.

Also seen were DAP Pasar branch chairman Yap Wah Chai and supporters who heard the news at 11pm, besides the MP for Klang, Datin Paduka Dr Tan Yee Kew.

Sources said the MB had tendered his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at 4.30 this evening.

It is learnt that Abu Hassan also went to Seri Perdana in Putrajaya tonight.

But it is not immediately known what transpired at the meeting at Seri Perdana.

It is also learnt that Abu Hassan's wife Datin Seri Wan Noor Daud who was in Langkawi for a badminton tournament, had rushed back in the evening, believed to be prompted by news of Abu Hassan's resignation.

Umno supporters were also seen coming in and out of the compound of the residence, and by midnight the number of cars and people had doubled.

