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Hilmi denies role in Rashid's defeat as Jelutong Umno chief

By Selva Suppiah

PENANG, Tues: There was no intervention from any top state Umno leader in Sunday's Jelutong Umno division election, in which incumbent chairman Datuk Abdul Rahid Ismail was toppled by Mohd Noor Hussain.

Deputy Chief Minister and state Umno deputy chief Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya said today the division election was "fair and square", and the members should now rally around the new chief in show of support.

He also denied any money politics or abuse of power on his part to oust Rashid, and said it was the decision of the delegates to choose another leader.

"I won't deny that my name was used during the election, but I had no part in

it," he said.

Hilmi said he has always remained impartial and has never intervened in any division election.

Abdul Rashid had alleged that money politics and a conspiracy led by a top state leader were behind his downfall in the division election.

He said he submitted a report to the Umno disciplinary board two weeks ago with facts to substantiate his allegations.

Urging party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to investigate his claims, he said he had also attached a letter from a branch member claiming interference from Hilmi.

Hilmi described Rashid's allegations as baseless and said he has never been involved in, or in any way connected to, any conspiracy to bring down Rashid.