

Dr M's decision propelled by human factor, says Kit Siang

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KUALA LUMPUR: DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said he understood why Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced his resignation.

He also said he did not think it was a political game or part of a Machiavellian plan.

Lim said Dr Mahathir's decision must have been propelled by the "human" factor, adding that he sympathised with the 76-year-old leader's predicament.

"I have done it before too and so I understand," Lim told reporters after a round table conference on the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia's 2001 report.

However, he said the country was entitled to know Dr Mahathir's decision.

In Sibul, Bernama quoted Sarawak DAP chairman Wong Ho Leng as saying that it was inappropriate for Dr Mahathir to resign from his party and government posts now.

As the leader of the nation, Dr Mahathir had done a very good job so far, he said.

"Dr Mahathir should focus on how to bring the country

ard to new and greater heights instead of talking about resigning," he added.

Wong said Dr Mahathir was not only a leader for Malaysia but also for the Third World countries.

"He has made his name very well known in the international arena; he has done a fine job for Malaysia and so personally, I believe he should remain," said the DAP leader.

Although Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had been named as Dr Mahathir's successor, he was probably not ready to take over yet, he added.

In Malacca, the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) has passed an emergency resolution urging Dr Mahathir to retain his positions in Umno and Barisan Nasional.

NUTP secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the union would be forwarding the resolution to the Prime Minister's office today.

"The union unanimously and wholeheartedly support Dr Mahathir's policies to develop the country and to

create a better society," he said after opening the triennial meeting of the Malacca NUTP branch at SM Infant Jesus Convent.

The resolution states: "The union urges the Prime Minister, who is sensitive to the welfare of the people, especially the needs of workers in the country, including those of teachers, to continue leading the party and the country."

Siva Subramaniam said the union supported the Prime Minister's move on the use of English in the teaching of science and mathematics.

"I am sure the people wholeheartedly support this move, but there may be differing opinions as to how this will be implemented," he said, adding that there were bound to be minor hitches when implementing a new system.

He said the effect of the Prime Minister's move to step down could affect the economic situation of the country.

"Other countries may abuse this situation and foreign powers may show us their fangs," he added.