

More support for Dr M pours in from states

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MALACCA: All five Umno divisions here passed resolutions urging party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue serving as president and Prime Minister of the country.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said:

"We need him to lead the country in this era of globalisation and to guide Umno and Barisan Nasional through the coming general election.

In another development, Malacca Umno and its Youth wing, state MIC and MCA leaders, and Majlis Gabungan Belia Melaka, carried banners and placards urging Dr Mahathir to carry on.

In Penang, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya said he would chair a meeting with state Umno leaders to urge Dr Mahathir to stay on.

He said it was not a political gimmick that Dr Mahathir

announced his resignation and later retracted it.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah leaders expressed relief over Dr Mahathir's decision to remain.

"There is no doubt about it, the country still needs his leadership," said Chief Minister and state Barisan chairman Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

Parti Bersatu Sabah president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said this was not the time for Dr Mahathir to relinquish his responsibilities and positions.

Sabah Progresssive Party (SAPP) president Datuk Yong Teck Lee said Dr Mahathir could steer Malaysia in overcoming all challenges, both domestic and external, being faced by the country.

In Seremban, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad slammed the opposition leaders for describing Dr Mahathir's announcement as a

"sandiwara."

In Shah Alam, the Selangor Umno Liaison Committee passed a resolution in support of Dr Mahathir to continue his service as the party president and prime minister.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Dr Khir Toyo, who convened an emergency meeting, said the state Umno unanimously pledged its backing for Dr Mahathir who rocked the nation by making a sudden announcement that he was resigning as Umno chief and all Barisan Nasional posts.

In Kuching, the Sarawak Barisan component parties wanted Dr Mahathir to remain as head of government.

Chief Minister and Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) president Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the state Barisan was relieved by Dr Mahathir's decision to withdraw his resignation.