

PM confirms Dollah as successor

KUALA LUMPUR: The following is the press statement by the Umno Supreme Council read out by its secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob at a press conference after its special meeting yesterday.

"The special meeting of the Umno Supreme Council held today was convened to receive the report of the meeting between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, president of Umno, and members of the Umno management committee who were given the mandate to meet with Mahathir by the special meeting of the Umno Supreme Council held on June 22, 2002, at 8pm.

"The said meeting between Mahathir and the Umno management committee took place on June 23, 2002, at 9am, at Seri Perdana, Putrajaya.

"The Umno Supreme Council, having received the report

of the management committee and discussed the matters arising, took note of the following:

"1. The Umno Supreme Council received the report of the management committee in which Mahathir appreciates the confidence given to him by party members and the people of Malaysia to continue leading Umno and the government. However, Mahathir has decided that he will retire and relinquish all his posts in Umno, Barisan Nasional and the government.

"2. Mahathir has confirmed Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor.

"3. Mahathir has decided that his resignations will take place after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit that will be held from Oct 24-25, 2003.

"4. In the period until the

OIC Summit, Mahathir will continue to hold all his posts in Umno, BN and the government, including the post of minister of finance.

"5. In the period until the OIC Summit, Mahathir will take a leave of two months during which Abdullah will be appointed acting-president of Umno and Acting-Prime Minister. Abdullah will also be acting-president of Umno and Acting-Prime Minister on any other occasion that Mahathir will be on leave during the said period.

"6. Mahathir has explained that the date for his resignations has been decided upon to ensure a smooth and orderly transition of power and responsibilities, and also to fulfil outstanding commitments such as chairing the Non Aligned Movement Summit to be held on Feb 24 and 25, 2003

and the OIC Summit.

"7. Mahathir has also informed that after his resignations from all posts in Umno, BN and the government, he will continue to contribute his energy and ideas for the benefit of Umno.

"8. Mahathir wants all Umno members to continue to work together and strengthen the party to ensure Umno's success in its struggle.

"With that therefore, Umno Supreme Council respects and accepts Mahathir's intentions as mentioned above.

"Umno Supreme Council urges party members to respect Mahathir Mohamad's intention to resign. This is the time for party members to be united in strengthening the party in facing challenges in our collective struggle for the community, our religion and the nation."

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak:



"I accept and respect the president's decision to resign as he has thought about this carefully and it was made on his own wish without any pressures or hard feelings.

"He has taken the effort to ensure a smooth transition of power by removing the doubts and naming his successor.

"I support the appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the next prime minister and party

president and will give him my fullest cooperation.

"The decision was made because the prime minister thinks the party and the country is in a very good situation now."

Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin: "All of us recognised Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's significant contributions as Umno president and prime minister for the past 21 years.

"We also respect his great sacrifice in placing the party's interest before that of his own or his family's by suggesting a very smooth, well-planned and organised transition of power.

"We are relieved that the decision was not made hurriedly and public confidence, both at home and internationally, in our country will not be jeopardised.

"By naming his successor, he has shown confidence in Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to lead the country.

"This would definitely remove all kinds of doubts or uncertainties which have prevailed before and on my part, I will support the decision. What is important is that Umno and the government's position is not compromised."



Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib:



"The 22 million people in the country will feel the loss of an extraordinary leader for whom we could not find a replacement in 100 or 1,000 years.

"But since he, of his own will, has decided to resign, a transition period is the right measure to enable Malaysia to develop and move forward under the leadership of Abdullah.

"Now that all speculations about his successor have been removed, I believe the country can continue to work as usual and we can re-evaluate his advice, for example in education, meritocracy and others."

Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz: "I appreciate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir's willingness to come to a compromise with the supreme council's appeal and plan for a smooth transition period before Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi takes over.

"Therefore, there is no reason or chance for any parties to make any speculations and more importantly, there would be an orderly transition of policies from Mahathir's era to Abdullah's time to ensure a good continuity of leadership.

"Wanita Umno will continue to give full support to the leadership of the party and government and would like to urge all parties, in or outside the country, not to make any speculations on the reason behind his resignation except that he feels that it has been too long."

Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein: "I respect and abide by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision and the supreme council's stand and will ensure that the Youth will give its undivided support to the president during the transition period.

"I appreciate his willingness to compromise with the supreme council's wish and his sacrifice in placing the party's interest before his personal or family's interest.

"Our work activities will continue and I think the team we have now is very solid."

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik: "The country has been lucky that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to listen to all parties and agreed to change his timetable. MCA wants to congratulate Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the anointed successor."

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu: "MIC has supported the prime minister for the past 21 years. We respect his decision to retire and we will give our support to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi."

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik: "We were shocked at the announcement but are grateful he has decided to stay on and lead in the transitional period. We respect his decision to retire after the OIC meeting and we want to thank him for his contribution to the country."