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Division rejects PM's decision not to contest in next election

PASIR MAS, Thurs. - The Pasir Mas Umno division's special delegates meeting today unanimously passed a resolution rejecting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision not to contest in the next general election.

The motion, tabled by division youth chief Ahmad Rosdi Mahmad and seconded by division head Datuk Ibrahim Ali, received undivided support from all 203 delegates.

Later, Ibrahim said although the Prime Minister had announced his final decision to retire completely from the government and party, he could not stop calls by party members to ask him to contest in the next election.

"As the division head, I have to accede to their request because it is their right. They are entitled to table any motion whether to reject Dr Mahathir's leadership or the opposite."

"Anyway, we are not alone in this issue. There are several other Umno divisions in other states which share the same view but they did not hold a special meeting," he said after the meeting at Sekolah Menengah Teknik Bunut Susu here.

"Those who disagreed do not know the division's real stand. We have never called for Dr Mahathir to remain as Prime Minister. We support his successor.

"It is clear that Pak Lah (Abdullah) will take over as Prime Minister. We support him and will back him fully."

Ibrahim urged Umno secretary general (Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob) to take up the division's resolution at the supreme council meeting.