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Four-year-old makes poignant 'Don't resign' appeal

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - "Call him and tell him not to resign" - these were the words which prompted Datuk Robert Phang to put an advertisement in the News Straits Times to appeal to Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad not to quit.

"If my four-year-old son can feel that way towards Dr Mahathir's statement, what about the rest of us Malaysians. That gave me the idea to put out this advertisement."

Phang said his son's words were uttered upon learning of Dr Mahathir's announcement on television yesterday. The full-page advertisement carries the conversation which transpired between father and son.

The advertisement ends with an appeal to all Malaysians to pray for Dr Mahathir's and his wife's (Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali) health.

"Everyone was relieved when the Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made the declaration that Dr Mahathir had not resigned," said Phang, adding that even though the request was selfish since Dr Mahathir had given a lot to this country, nevertheless for the sake of the nation, he must remain as Prime Minister.

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