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Mahathir-Reaction (Chinese)

CHINESE ASSOCIATIONS WANT MAHATHIR TO CARRY ON LEADING MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- The Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia wants Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue leading the nation.

Its president Tan Sri Chong Chin Shong said Dr Mahathir's leadership was still needed and hoped the prime minister would not resign now.

"The country's economy has just begun to improve, so we call upon him to continue leading the nation. Besides he's still healthy," Chong said when contacted by Bernama tonight.

He was asked to comment on the announcement by Dr Mahathir, at the Umno General Assembly this afternoon, to resign from all posts in Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Dr Mahathir, however, agreed to withdraw his decision after Umno Supreme Council members appealed him to reconsider.

"We felt relieved when Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced that the Prime Minister had retracted his decision to resign," said Chong.

He said Dr Mahathir's leadership was needed not only at the national level but also at the international level.

-- BERNAMA

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