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Respect PM's wishes as sincere gesture, says Sabah Umno

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. - Malaysians in general and Umno members in particular should respect Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's explanation yesterday on his decision to resign as Prime Minister and Umno president.

Sabah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Musa Aman said Dr Mahathir had also named Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor and therefore there should be no doubt in the minds of the people who will take over after October next year.

"Malaysians in general and Umno members in particular should be happy with Dr Mahathir's clarification and ignore speculation over the leadership transition issue.

"This is a sincere gesture on his part to do what is right for Malaysia and the people. It is something that Malaysia can proudly hold up for the world to see, that we are a nation in which the people and leaders think as one and act as one in matters of national importance," Musa said in a statement today.

Dr Mahathir yesterday said he would resign after the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting.