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Umno division supports, respects PM's decision

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Kubang Pasu Umno division which held a special committee meeting today expressed its respect and support for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to resign within the stipulated time-frame.

Its vice-head Datuk Johari Baharum who chaired the meeting said the committee also supported the supreme council's stand to name Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Dr Mahathir's successor.

"The division also agrees that after Dr Mahathir relinquishes his posts as Prime Minister, Umno president and Finance Minister, he is more than welcome to lead the division," Johari who is also Dr Mahathir's political secretary said.

Dr Mahathir has been leading the division since 1974.

The division's stand over numerous national issues has always been considered significant as it is perceived to reflect the ideas of Dr Mahathir, being the division chairman.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Umno has pledged to fully support and co-operate with Abdullah.

It also gave a commitment to fulfil Dr Mahathir's call for Sabah Umno to remain strong and ensure a landslide victory for the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election.

The resolution was unanimously passed at the State Umno liaison committee meeting here today chaired by its head Datuk Musa Aman.

Musa said Sabah Umno also appreciated Dr Mahathir's wish for a smooth and orderly leadership transition.

"We respect Dr Mahathir's wish to step down and his decision to name (Datuk Seri) Abdullah as his successor," he said after the meeting.

Musa, who is also State Finance Minister, said Sabah Umno was shocked with Dr Mahathir's decision to step down but it now understood the situation following the explanation by the Umno supreme council.

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