

Stop resignation offers, Mahathir tells party leaders

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told party leaders yesterday not to make statements professing their willingness to resign from the party and government posts.

Clarifying his statement made on Sunday, the prime minister said he did not ask Umno leaders to resign when he said it was good for all to quit so as

to allow his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to pick his own team.

"I would like to make a clarification here. I found that party leaders lack understanding of what I have said. I did not ask them to resign. I only said (that) when the time comes, when probably they would be dropped, they must be willing to accept it.

"I hope there will be no more statements on resigning after this. There is not need to make any statement. Just be willing when the time comes," he told a press conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

Umno leaders at various levels have announced their willingness to resign if requested to do so by the party leadership following Mahathir's statement.