

Rafidah apologises for disrupting Dr M's speech

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WANITA Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, who was in a state of shock as she ran to the rostrum at the last general assembly to dissuade the Prime Minister from resigning, made an open apology to him yesterday.

Watched by thousands of people in the hall and outside, she told the Umno president in a voice choked with emotion that she was sorry for interrupting his winding-up speech then.

"I would like to apologise to you, Datuk Seri, for interrupting you during your speech last year.

"When you announced your intention to resign, the others and I were not ready to let you go," she said, adding that her actions then might have not been proper.

In the incident last June, Rafidah was the first to reach Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the rostrum when he expressed his disappointment with the Malays and said he was resigning from all political and government posts.

She approached Dr Mahathir, who was sobbing in front of his astonished audience, and pressed for his reasons to resign.

At that time, the Prime Minister was too overcome with emotion to finish his speech.

Rafidah said Wanita Umno would like to see a smooth transition of power, stating undivided support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will move up after Dr Mahathir resigns in October.