

30 JAN 2003

PM CORRECTS MEDIA ON HIS STATEMENT ON UMNO LEADERS STEPPING DOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today clarified the statement he made last Sunday commenting on the willingness expressed by several Umno leaders to step down and not to contest in the next general election.

He said the media did not understand fully the statement he made.

"I didn't ask anyone to resign. When the time comes, a new leader will take over and maybe some will be dropped and they must be willing. It doesn't mean that all will be dropped," he said at a news conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting here.

Dr Mahathir was reported to have said last Sunday that he welcomed the decision of several Umno leaders to step down and not to contest in the next election, giving his successor Datuk Seri Dr Abdullah Ahmad Badawi the chance to rearrange everything.

Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and his executive councillors had expressed willingness to step down in favour of new faces in the next general election.

-- BERNAMA
MFZ MFJ ABG