

THE STAR

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Set date, PM urged

Cheras Umno presses Pak Lah to specify quit time

KUALA LUMPUR: Cheras Umno has called for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to set a date for his departure as Prime Minister.

In an extraordinary meeting which lasted from 9am to 6pm, Cheras Umno also called for the quota system for nomination to contest party posts to be abolished.

The meeting also decided that its branch leaders would seek a meeting with former leader Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad after their meeting with Abdullah scheduled for May 24.

Cheras division chief Datuk Syed Ali Al Habshee said the grassroots also wanted Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique to step down as Federal Territories (FT) Umno chairman as they felt he had done a poor job during the general election.

Zulhasnan is the Setiawangsa MP and FT Minister.

Syed Ali said Cheras wanted Putrajaya MP Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, who is also the Umno secretary-general, to take over as Umno FT chairman because "we need strong people to manage the state liaison committee".

He also said they had invited the state liaison committee to send a representative to the Cheras EGM but they replied they were not sending anyone.

"Our members are fed up," he said.



Political matters: Syed Ali (fourth from left) and the division members singing the party song at the extraordinary meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. — Bernama

He said it was best for Abdullah to hand over the party presidency to his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak by December before the general assembly and party election.

The EGM was held specifically to discuss the quota system of nominations needed to contest party posts.

Cheras Umno Youth head Syed

Mehdhar Syed Abdullah said they were disappointed with Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein for his apology for waving the *keris* during the wing's assembly.

He said that Hishammuddin's reason that it was among the causes of the Barisan Nasional's poor performance in the general election was

irrelevant.

The division's Puteri chief Norlaili Mohamed said they supported the resolution to abolish the quota system.

She said this would show that Umno practised democracy, and that the grassroots had the chance to choose the top leader.