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Mukhriz denies calling on Abdullah to step down

BUTTERWORTH: Newly-elected Jerlun MP Datuk Mukhriz Mahathir has denied talk that he was calling on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to resign.

He said he heard about the messages sent via SMS and did not know who was behind it.

Mukhriz said he was confident the leadership would take appropriate measures to restore pub-

lic confidence in Barisan Nasional.

"We appeal to the leadership to take the right initiative to remedy the situation," he told a press conference at a hotel here yesterday.

"This has been a humbling experience. We understand the feelings of the *rakyat* and we are confident that all efforts would be made to make the *rakyat* return to the Barisan fold."

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Mukhriz said he called for a press conference to appeal to all parties to remain calm and rational, noting that the stock market took a tumble yesterday.

On his father Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to the Prime Minister to step down for crushing the coalition, Mukhriz appealed to the leadership to make the changes and take heed of issues.