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15 divisions want PKR head axed

Group: We've lost faith in him

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KOTA KINABALU: A revolt is taking place in Sabah Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) with 15 division chiefs demanding the removal of the party's state liaison chairman Ahmad Thamrin Jaini.

They want PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to replace Ahmad Thamrin with Tuaran division chief Ansari Abdullah.

Acting as a spokesman for the group, Kota Marudu PKR chief Anthony Mandiau said they had lost confidence with Ahmad Thamrin who was appointed state chief in late 2009.

"We are completely disappointed with Ahmad Thamrin who has failed to speak out and highlight important issues like native land and native certificates," Anthony told the media here yesterday.

Also present were Sabah PKR director of communications Ronnie Klassen and nine of the 15 division chiefs who had given their written pledges of support to Ansari.

Apart from Kota Marudu, the

divisions demanding Ahmad Thamrin's removal were Tuaran, Batu Sapi, Beluran, Semporna, Kalabakan, Kudat, Ranau, Sepangar, Putatan, Pensiangan, Sipitang, Tenom, Kota Belud and Labuan.

Anthony said Ahmad Thamrin's lack of leadership qualities was especially obvious in the Libaran division, which he heads.

"The division is completely disorganised," he said, adding that Ahmad Thamrin was noticeably absent during last November's Batu Sapi by-election.

"He only showed up when (PKR supremo Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim was in Batu Sapi," Anthony added.

He said the division chiefs would be airing their grievances on Ahmad Thamrin in a meeting with PKR secretary general Saifuddin Nasution here today.

Asked whether through their public stand, they were issuing Dr Wan Azizah an ultimatum, Ronnie said: "Our party constitution states that the president will decide on the appointment of the state liaison chairmen after consulting the respective division chiefs."