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# 'I expressed my concerns to Najib'

→ **WWW.PAGAMA**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, but it was turned down, adding that what Dr Mahathir claimed was true.

"I had met with the prime minister on March 19 to hand in my resignation letter dated March 18, but the letter was not accepted, much less read by Najib.

"He, instead, asked me about my concerns and when I told him, he immediately called the chief secretary to the government (Tan Sri Ali Hamsa) to elect a new parliamentary administrator who could work better with me in tackling my concerns," he said at his official residence in Bukit Tunku here yesterday.

Pandikar clarified that he had, on March 13, met Dr Mahathir to talk about his insecurities in continuing his position as Dewan Rakyat speaker, but the contents of that meeting should have been kept exclusively between the two.

"I admit to having met him at his Yayasan Al-Bukhary office, and we discussed political matters of the country and Sabah.

"I also shared with him my disappointments regarding my duty and responsibility as Dewan Rakyat speaker and told him of my intention to step down," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir did not advise him to see Najib, but instead advised him to resign as soon as possible.

Pandikar said the purpose of his resignation was to uphold the parliamentary institution, which was highlighted in the concerns he expressed to Najib.

"One of my requests was that a new parliamentary administrator who could work well with me be elected, which was immediately done by Najib when he called the chief secretary to the government during our meeting.

"And, to address public perception that the parliamentary and speaker institution was under the instruction of the government, I suggested that the position of minister in the Prime Minister's Office, in charge of parliamentary matters, be dissolved," he said.

Other concerns raised by Pandikar included the establishment of a parliamentary select committee to facilitate debates on bills and other policies, the establishment of a special "Minister Time" to allow members of parliament to ask questions on current issues without prior notice and the upgrading of the Parliament building infrastructure, which he said should be updated as Putrajaya's administration headquarters and the Palace of Justice.

"What is very important is the re-establishment of the Parliamentary Services Act of 1963, which was repealed during Dr Mahathir's time as premier in 1992.

"It has to be re-established and



Dewan Rakyat Speaker **Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia** during a press conference at his official residence in Bukit Tunku, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah

updated in line with current needs and demands."

The act provided for Parliament to conduct its own administration, staffing and financing.

Pandikar requested that the matter be put to rest as everything

had been clarified, and that the media should refrain from pursuing it.

"No one lied. I did not lie about my meeting with Dr Mahathir, and Najib and Dr Mahathir did not lie about me wanting to resign.

"Do not ask me any more on this issue. This matter ends here."

On Monday, Dr Mahathir claimed that Pandikar had embarrassed him by his apparent backtracking, saying that if he had wanted to resign, then he should do so.

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