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Pandikar: I met Dr M, but did not say I was quitting

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KOTA KINABALU: Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia admits meeting Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad but denies telling the former prime minister that he is quitting.

The Dewan Rakyat Speaker said he only related to Dr Mahathir his frustrations over some of the Dewan Rakyat sittings when petty issues often took centrestage while the more important ones were ignored.

"I never said I wanted to resign," he said.

Pandikar said he met the former premier to discuss the country's political situation but refused to say when and where the meeting took place or how long it lasted.

"I don't want to disrespect him. But all I want to say is that I did not resign and will be chairing the Parliament sitting scheduled for tomorrow," Pandikar told reporters in Kota Belud yesterday.

He said he would also conduct the swearing-in of two new members of the house – Rompin MP Datuk Hasan Arifin and Permatang Pauh MP Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and chair the presentation of proposals for the 11th Malaysian Plan, as per Rule 27(3) of the Dewan Rakyat Standing Orders.

On Saturday, Dr Mahathir claimed that Pandikar had told him that he was quitting his post. He said this while speaking to reporters at a forum in Ipoh.