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'PM decides on positions'

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> Changes in posts normal and part of political process, says Kedah Umno chief

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GEORGE TOWN: A senior Kedah Umno leader yesterday reiterated that government positions were the prerogative of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Deputy Minister Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah said the prime minister decided on such matters.

The Kedah Umno chairman said party members need to have faith in the party leadership while the people should also have confidence in the government.

He said changes, whether in the post of mentri besar or deputy prime minister, were normal and part of the political process.

"This has always been what has happened in Malaysia," he said at a press conference.

Ahmad Bashah was asked to respond to a quote attributed to Kedah Mentri Besar (MB) Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

The first-term MB was said to have urged the people not to call for him to step down as he would do so if he had lost the confidence of the people.

The words in Malay had been superimposed on a picture of Mukhriz, with the resulting graphic receiving more than a thousand shares and more than 9,000 'likes' on a Facebook page at the time of writing.

theSun later learned the remarks were made during a closed-door Umno meeting on Saturday.