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Speaker: I gave PM quit letter

> But Najib did not accept my resignation, says Pandikar Amin

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KUALA LUMPUR: Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia said he handed his resignation letter to Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak when he met the prime minister on March 19.

But he said Najib did not want to accept the letter.

He said Najib asked him why he wanted to quit, and allowed him to voice out his grouses.

"Among other things, I (told the prime minister) I wanted to avoid the public perception that Parliament was just a 'rubber-stamp' institution," Pandikar Amin said at a press conference at his official residence here yesterday.

"(I told the prime minister) that my duty is to uphold the integrity of the parliamentary institution.

"If I cannot fulfil my duty in this respect, I will step down," he said.

He also admitted that he met Tun Dr

Mahathir Mohamad and had told the former prime minister he was considering stepping down from his post

He said the meeting took place at Mahathir's office in Putrajaya on March 13. "It's true that I met Tun Mahathir. We discussed a number of issues concerning current political issues nationwide, especially Sabah," he said.

He added that the meeting, which he described as "a son seeking advice from his father", allowed him to speak openly about his dissatisfaction with his duties and responsibilities as Speaker.

Pandikar Amin said neither of them was lying, but expressed disappointment that Mahathir "violated the ethics of secrecy" in publicly revealing their private conversation.

He also said Mahathir advised him to resign immediately rather than seek out Najib to discuss the matter.

Subsequently, Pandikar Amin went to see Najib in his parliamentary office to hand in his resignation letter.

During the meeting with Najib, he also suggested that one hour be set aside every week for "Minister Time" whereby MPs can submit questions to ministers on current issues. He also advocated reinstating the Parliamentary Services Act 1963, which was repealed in 1992 during Mahathir's tenure.



Pandikar Amin speaking at a press conference at his residence yesterday to clear the air about his meeting with Mahathir.

(The act allows Parliament to conduct its own administration independently of the government.)

Pandikar Amin said when the meeting

ended, Najib immediately called the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa to look into his (Pandikar Amin's) complaints.