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Dr Mahathir's resignations a good move, says Zahid

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WASHINGTON: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's resignation as chairman of Proton Holdings Bhd and Group Lotus PLC shows that he no longer supports the government's policies.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said it was a good move for Dr Mahathir to walk away from his roles in government bodies or organisations.

"It is difficult for the government to have someone who isn't on board with the government's policies and yet, still holds numerous positions in organisations and government-linked companies, even in an advisory capacity," Zahid said here yesterday.

Zahid had attended a dinner to commemorate the opening of the 4th Nuclear Safety Summit here, which began yesterday.

He joined other world leaders at the White House for the dinner, hosted by United States President Barack Obama.

Zahid, who is also home minister, said even though Proton isn't a government-owned company, it still had connections with the National Automotive Policy and, as such, Proton would need technical and financial support from the government.

On Dr Mahathir's role in the Perdana Leadership Foundation, Zahid said there had been no move in urging Dr Mahathir to resign.

Dr Mahathir had, on Thursday, relinquished his posts as chairman of Proton and Group Lotus PLC. The statement posted on his blog

chedet.cc also said that he had resigned as Universiti Teknologi Petronas chancellor as well as from his post as adviser to Langkawi Development Authority and Tioman Island Development Authority.

In **Kota Baru**, Umno information chief Tan Sri Annuar Musa said the decision by Dr Mahathir to resign was the right one.

He said it was usual for a person of Dr Mahathir's age to no longer be able to focus on work.

"The majority of the posts given to Dr Mahathir were out of respect for him, but we realised it is a burden to him," he said here yesterday.

"We would like to thank him for his contributions to the country. His resignations are actually good for him. He can focus on his health and family," he said.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, Umno Youth executive councillor Sheikh Nafiq Al-firdaus said Dr Mahathir had fallen into his own trap by throwing his lot in with the opposition.

He said Dr Mahathir shared a stage with his lifelong enemies, but could not even meet their demands.

"The majority of Umno members cannot accept what he has done and we want him to stop destroying the party and country.

"Dr Mahathir should just resign from all posts that were given to him courtesy of the government.

"He must respect the country's democracy and stop creating confusion among Malaysians by asking the elected Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to step down," he said.