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Bashah not on Kedah MB candidates' list

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DROPPED?: Crisis takes a twist as his name is not among 3 submitted to Regency Council

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THE Kedah menteri besar crisis has taken an about-turn, as Datuk Seri Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah was apparently not listed as the new candidate to replace Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

Sources close to the Umno leadership claimed that three names — Guar Chempedak assemblyman Datuk Dr Ku Abd Rahman Ku Ismail, Ayer Hangat assemblyman Datuk Mohd Rawi Abdul Hamid and Bayu assemblyman Datuk Azmi Che Husin — were instead forwarded to the Kedah Regency Council which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had an audience with yesterday morning.

Najib, at a press conference later in the evening after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, confirmed that he had met with the Regency Council chairman and presented several "suggestions" on behalf of Umno pertaining to the issue.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah (right), the chairman of the Kedah Regency Council, leaving after a closed-door meeting at Istana Darul Aman in Bukit Persekutuan, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. Pic by Asyraf Hamzah



The audience with Tan Sri Tunku Sallehuddin Sultan Badlishah went for about an hour.

"I have informed the supreme council that I had sought an audience with the (Kedah) Regency

Council chairman, and I had presented several suggestions on behalf of Umno.

"Further developments will be made known soon," said Najib.

When asked whether Ku Abd Rahman, Rawi and Azmi were listed as candidates but rejected by the Re-

gency Council, Najib's reply was: "No, that is not true."

To another question if there were indeed three names forwarded as nominees for the Kedah menteri besar post, Najib said he would make the matter known soon.

"I will make it known soon. There is no rejection (of the suggestions presented) and the meeting (audience with the Regency Council) went well," said Najib.

When asked for confirmation if changes would take place within the Kedah leadership, Najib said: "Just wait, we will tell you."

Najib added that as party president he would have to provide a

serious consideration on the issue raised by the 14 Kedah Umno division heads.

"We have heard of the problems (earlier) but it is an issue mooted by the division chiefs.

"Hence, as party president, I have to give serious consideration on the stand made by them."

Last Wednesday, Bashah, who is also Kedah Umno liaison committee deputy chairman, led a group of Kedah Umno leaders in declaring their loss of confidence and faith in Mukhriz's leadership as both the menteri besar and state Umno chairman. **Additional reporting by Awaina Arbee**