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## Japan's PM vows to stay despite election setback



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TOKYO, Aug. 8— Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has reaffirmed his decision to remain in office, despite his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suffering a major setback in last month's parliamentary election.

Speaking at a joint plenary meeting of LDP lawmakers from both houses of parliament on Friday, Ishiba, who also serves as party president, acknowledged the growing calls within the party for him to step down.

“I would like to listen sincerely and humbly to your views,” he said, adding that he remains committed to fulfilling his “responsibility to the country.”

The July 20 election saw the LDP-led coalition lose its majority in the House of Councillors, prompting a period of reflection and debate over the party’s leadership.

Opening Friday’s session, Ishiba once again apologised for the electoral defeat but maintained that his duty now is to lead the party in addressing the challenges ahead.

LDP Secretary-General Hiroshi Moriyama told members that a detailed report on the election results and their implications will be prepared by the end of the month.

Despite internal pressure, Ishiba signalled no intention to resign, emphasising stability and continuity during what he described as a “critical time” for Japan’s political future.