

# Perak

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The ailing Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed Wan Teh is expected to resign as Perak Mentri Besar soon.

Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed, 54, officially informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of his decision to resign when they met here today, according to Bernama.

The report, quoting official sources, added that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was expected to appoint Encik Ramli Ngah Talib, as the new Mentri Besar.

Encik Ramli, 41, a lawyer and Perak Umno Liaison Committee deputy chairman, has been acting Mentri Besar since last year after Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed suffered a stroke.

Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed, who became the Mentri Besar in October 1977 after the resignation of Tan Sri Mohamed Ghazali Jawi, is also expected to give up politics completely.

He is likely to give up the posts of Perak Barisan Nasional chairman, Perak Umno chief, and head of Umno Parit Buntar and Grik divisions.

Datuk Seri Haji Mohamed, who has called a meeting of state Umno leaders on Feb. 21, is expected to announce his decision then.

The report said his impending departure from active politics was no surprise because he had not fully recovered from the stroke.

Since his return from London after undergoing treatment, he has been unable to resume his duties as Mentri Besar. He was supposed to have started work on Jan. 1 but he sought an extension of his medical leave.

Bernama also reported that at today's meeting, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir advised Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed to extend his leave until the end of the month.

A spokesman from the Prime Minister's Department said the Mentri Besar had discussed his political future because of ill health.

Datuk Seri Haji Wan Mohamed, however, declined to say whether the question of him relinquishing his post was discussed at the meeting.