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Mahathir - Sabah ' ' ' (P)

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he has not received official information about the decision by USNO Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen not to join UMNO if Tun Datu Mustapha Harun was not appointed to lead Sabah UMNO.

+I have not received official information yet. I do not want to comment,+ the Prime Minister told reporters who met him at Parliament House.

Yesterday, USNO Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen who met in Kota Kinabalu took a decision not to join UMNO if their president Tun Datu Mustapha, the prime mover of UMNO's entry into Sabah, was not appointed to lead the state UMNO.

They also decided to send a memorandum on the matter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir.

Last Saturday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir announced the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghafar Baba, who is UMNO-deputy president, to head the Sabah UMNO liaison body. -- more

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Mahathir - Sabah 2 Kuala Lumpur ' ' ' .

UMNO Vice-president, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was asked about the latest development, said it needed to be looked into first.

However, he said that the appointment of the state liaison chief was the prerogative of the party president.

+Let Encik Ghafar implement the foundation of the UMNO in Sabah first before handing-over leadership to the state leaders, he added.

He said Encik Ghafar's appointment should be welcomed by UMNO-supporters in Sabah.

Another UMNO vice president, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, declined to comment until he got a full picture. -- Bernama

♥11/02/20-04MST