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SELANGOR-BORN GETS PRIORITY TO BE KL MAYOR, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir-mayor

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that a Selangor-born will get priority to be the Datuk Bandar of Kuala Lumpur succeeding Tan Sri Elyas Omar whose resignation takes effect on Thursday.

He said that when Kuala Lumpur was declared a Federal Territory on Feb 1, 1974, the government had promised to give priority to someone from Selangor to be the Datuk Bandar.

+However, this condition is not that rigid as the government can also appoint someone from outside the state as the Kuala Lumpur Datuk Bandar in certain situations,+ he told reporters after opening the 12th annual general meeting of Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB) at Pusat Islam here.

He was asked on the successor to Elyas after the Cabinet accepted his decision to resign at its meeting on Tuesday.

Elyas, when announcing his decision to quit on Sept 1, had claimed full responsibility for the controversy surrounding the purchase of 23 Volvo cars costing \$2.3 million by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, which was allegedly made without following Treasury procedures. -- more

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Mahathir-mayor 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Elyas had said he made the decision to protect the image of government administration and to ensure continued public confidence in City Hall.

The Prime Minister said the government would try its best to find a Selangor-born to be the Datuk Bandar.

However, if there was no suitable candidate from Selangor, the government had to appoint someone from another state like in the case of Elyas who was Pulau Pinang-born, he added.

+This condition (that a Selangor-born be given priority to be the Datuk Bandar) has also become a problem in choosing the most suitable candidate but we will try to find, and if unsuccessful we can ignore it,+ he said.

Asked whether the new Datuk Bandar would be appointed from among politicians or civil servants, he said the government had not decided on this yet.

Dr Mahathir said he was still studying the names of candidates proposed by various parties for the post. -- Bernama

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