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Mahathir-Post

POST OF SABAH AFFAIRS MINISTER MAY BE ABOLISHED

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PULAU PINANG, July 19 (Bernama) -- The post of Sabah Affairs Minister may be abolished since it is no longer relevant with Sabah now being ruled by the Barisan Nasional (BN), Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

But, he said, Parti Demokratik Sabah president Datuk Bernard Dompok would still be appointed to the Federal Cabinet soon and given another portfolio.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said last month that Dompok would be made a federal minister and Akar deputy president Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan as a deputy minister in order to bring senior Sabah BN component party leaders into the government.

Dompok was expected to be named Sabah Affairs Minister, a post created last year for Tun Datu Mustapha Harun who has since quit the BN.

Dr Mahathir said the post was created because the BN at the time had no leader specifically responsible for Sabah which was then ruled by the opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS). -- more

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Mahathir-Post 2 (last) Pulau Pinang

Since the Sabah Chief Minister now represented the BN, duplication of duties might arise if the Sabah Affairs portfolio was retained, Dr Mahathir said at a news conference after opening the Pulau Pinang Skills Development Centre.

Questioned on speculations of a snap general election this year, the Prime Minister said in jest: "I may announce the dissolution of Parliament tomorrow or maybe in six or nine months time. That can happen."

However, he was more definite the BN would foil the DAP's Tanjung Three strategy to capture power in Pulau Pinang in the next polls. -- Bernama

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