

New Ministry for Dompok

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Federal Government is likely to create a new ministry which will be headed by Parti Demokratik Sabah president Datuk Bernard Dompok.

He said the Sabah Affairs Ministry, which was headed by former Sabah Umno deputy chairman Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, had been abolished following the formation of the Barisan Nasional Government in Sabah.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the State BN Committee meeting here, he said the Sabah Affairs Ministry was established when the State was ruled by Parti Bersatu Sabah.

Dr Mahathir said the appointment of Dompok and Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) deputy president Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan as Minister and Deputy Minister in the Federal Cabinet had been decided by the Government.

"Give me some time. I need to sort out which departments should be given to them (Dompok and Jeffrey) to look after," he said.

On tonight's meeting, he said several issues were brought up, but the main purpose was for him to meet PDS and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRs) leaders.

PDS, led by Dompok and PBRs, whose president is Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup, are new members of the Sabah

BN. The two are former leaders of the PBS.

"The State BN Committee meeting was the first for leaders of the new parties," Dr Mahathir said. Sabah BN chairman is Sabah Umno head and Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai.

Dompok, PDS deputy president Datuk Wilfred Bumburing, Kurup and PBRs supreme council member James Andrew Vitalis attended the meeting.

Dr Mahathir also announced that a task force had been formed to look into the electricity supply problems in Sabah. Although there had been an improvement in supply, there were still places which did not receive electricity continuously.