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Mahathir-Sabah

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL ACCEPTS DECISION ON ROTATION OF CM'S POST

KUALA LUMPUR, May 4 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council (MT) today accepted the decision to rotate the Sabah chief ministership among the state's three major communities, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Other matters concerning the rotation, including the date of appointment for the new Chief Minister and resignation of the present Chief Minister would be decided later, he said.

Yesterday, Sabah Umno chief Datuk Salleh Said Keruak announced that he has tendered his resignation as Chief Minister in line with a Barisan Nasional (BN) pledge to rotate the post every two years among the Muslim Bumiputeras, non-Muslim Bumiputeras and Chinese.

Dr Mahathir then announced in Melaka that Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) President Datuk Yong Teck Lee would be appointed as the new Chief Minister as soon as possible.

Salleh would remain as the Sabah Umno Liaison Committee chief, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President and BN Chairman, told a press conference after chairing the MT meeting here.

Dr Mahathir said BN would make some changes to the state Cabinet following the implementation of the rotation system.

Asked whether the court case being faced by Yong would hinder his appointment as Chief Minister, Dr Mahathir said: "We have to study the implication of the court case before we make a decision."

Dr Mahathir said the study was expected to take some time but he hoped it would not be too long.

Yong has been charged in the Magistrate's Court with participating in an illegal procession in Sabah on nomination day for the 1990 general election, when he was a member of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

-- BERNAMA

AH YBY