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Yong-Ghapur

ANNOUNCEMENT BY GHAPUR EXPECTED THIS WEEK

KOTA KINABALU, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh is expected to make an announcement this week relating to his decision to resign as Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee said he was told that an announcement would be made this week either by Abdul Ghapur or someone else on his behalf.

Asked whether Ghapur would change his mind, he said, "If I speculate now, then there would be no need for the announcement."

Yong was speaking to reporters after attending a meet-the-people session in Tuaran, some 30km from here.

On Dec 13, Abdul Ghapur, 54, announced his immediate resignation as Sabah Umno deputy chief. He was also supposed relinquish all state cabinet posts from Dec 18.

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had advised him to reconsider his decision.

In response, Abdul Ghapur said he would take note of Dr Mahathir's advice and would give his answer after returning from holidays at the end of the month.

On acquisition of North Borneo Timber Bhd (NBT)'s shares by government-owned Warisan Harta Sdn Bhd, Yong said he would give his comment when the time came.

"The whole premiss of the allegations is wrong...based on allegation before an investigation. First they made the allegation, giving it a totally different picture and then they try to confirm it using their own methods.

"I think if I were to answer it now, it will give a totally different picture. It can give a distorted picture and it is not fair to me, to you and to anybody," he said.

Opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) wanted Yong to clarify on the acquisition of three millions NBT shares by Warisan Harta which caused the state government to incur substantial losses following a drop in share value recently. --BERNAMA

JS ABG