

16 MAY 1997

Anwar - Zin

ANWAR AND MAHATHIR HOLD SEVERAL MEETINGS ON NEW MELAKA CM

PEKAN, May 16 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today he had held several meetings with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the appointment of the new Melaka Chief Minister.

He said he left it to Dr Mahathir to decide on the matter.

"If Dr Mahathir is still on leave when the announcement is to be made, then I will make the announcement," he told reporters after an audience with the Sultan of Pahang, Sultan Ahmad Shah at the Istana Abu Bakar, here.

Earlier, Anwar performed the Friday prayers at Masjid Padang Polo here together with Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He also launched the national level Teachers Day in Kuantan this morning.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said Anwar could appoint the new Melaka Chief Minister following the death of Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani.

Dr Mahathir had said that since he would going on a two-month leave, the appointment could be made by Anwar.

Mohd Zin died at Hospital Tawakal, Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday without regaining consciousness after a stroke on May 11.

In MELAKA, deputy chairman of the Melaka Umno Liaision Committee Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam said they would support the decision of the party's leadership.

Met by reporters today, Mohd Ali who is also Deputy Transport Minister said the Prime Minister had full power in selecting the new Chief Minister.

Melaka Umno liaison secretary Datuk Sahar Arpan, meanwhile, said the committee which was scheduled to hold its meeting within a week would discuss preparations for the Melekek state by-election following Mohd Zin's death.

He said the meeting would also discuss current issues. -- BERNAMA

AZ MOZ MAI ABG