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Anwar to be acting Umno president

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will be the party's acting president when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad goes on two months' leave from May 19.

"Anwar will be acting president and will chair all supreme council meetings and carry out duties pertaining to the party during my absence," Dr Mahathir announced today.

Speaking after chairing a supreme council meeting at the party's headquarters in Menara Datuk Onn, the Prime Minister said he had also informed the council on his decision to go on leave.

Dr Mahathir had said that he was taking leave to rest while doing some work and making official visits to several countries.

On his return from a week-long visit to three African states on Thursday, Dr Mahathir had also announced that Anwar would be acting Prime Minister and Home Minister.

This is the first time in 12 years that the Deputy Prime Minister will act as Prime Minister since Datuk Musa Hitam (now Tan Sri) in 1982 and 1985.

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