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DPM: I had talks with PM on picking new CM

PEKAN, Fri. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said that he had had "several discussions" with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the possible candidates to be the new Malacca Chief Minister.

"During the meeting, Dr Mahathir mentioned names to fill the slot but no decision has been made," he said.

"We leave it (the announcement) to the Prime Minister."

He was speaking after an audience with Sultan of Pahang at Istana Abu Bakar.

Anwar, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, had earlier performed Friday prayers at a nearby mosque.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he had yet to decide on the new Malacca Chief Minister.

He added that he might not appoint an acting Chief Minister to head the State Government in the interim period following the death of Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani on Wednesday.

This was because the person appointed acting Chief Minister might assume that he would be eventually appointed to head the State Government.

Asked if he would make an announcement before he goes on two months' from May 19, Dr Mahathir said:

"Even if I go on leave, Datuk Seri Anwar is around and he is acting Prime Minister. He has full authority to make decisions."

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