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Osu-Ghapur

GHAPUR'S RESIGNATION WILL NOT AFFECT UMNO'S PREPARATIONS, SAYS OSU

KOTA KINABALU, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno Liaison chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam said today Datuk Ghapur Salleh's resignation as State Umno deputy chairman will not jeopardise Umno's preparations for the state elections.

" This is normal in politics. I believe it will not affect our preparations to face the elections. After all, he is still the Tawau Umno division chief," he told reporters after flagging off a charity run organised by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at Padang Merdeka, here.

Osu, who is Land and Co-operative Development Minister, said he would inform Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Ghapur's resignation as deputy chairman.

In a surprise move yesterday, Ghapur announced in Tawau that he was resigning as deputy chief minister and finance minister and as Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief.

Ghapur, who is on leave, said his resignation as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister would take effect on the last day of his leave on Thursday, while his resignation as State Umno deputy chief took effect yesterday.

He cited failure to carry out his responsibility as a member of the State Cabinet and personal problems as the reasons for his resignation.

Declining to disclose whether he had received Ghapur's resignation, Osu said: " Till this morning, I've yet to contact him for an explanation on the actual reasons for his decision."

However, it is understood that Osu's private secretary was in Tawau to meet Ghapur.

Asked about Ghapur's replacement in the State Cabinet, Osu said it was up to the State Umno leadership to decide.

Meanwhile in TAWAU, Bernama learnt that Ghapur met Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee in Lahad Datu yesterday.

Yong, who was on a visit to the east coast, is said to have asked Ghapur to meet him when he got news of his resignation. -- BERNAMA

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