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Ghapur-Decision

GHAPUR SAYS HE'S FIRM IN HIS DECISION TO QUIT

KOTA KINABALU, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh said today he will not reconsider his decision to resign as Sabah Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister and as the state deputy Umno chief.

"I am firm in my decision. This is a question of principle. I think I have failed in carrying out my duties, so I am stepping down," he said when contacted here.

He said he was staying on as Tawau Umno division chief as he was elected to the post unlike the other three positions for which he was appointed.

"I will continue to be with Umno. This is the only party (for me). I stay on until I die," he said.

Ghapur, 54, who is also the state assemblyman for Merotai, announced his resignation in Tawau yesterday. His resignation as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister will take effect on the last day of his current leave on Thursday, while his resignation as the State Umno deputy liaison chairman took effect yesterday.

Ghapur said he would now be concentrating on business activities.

Asked if his resignation would affect Barisan Nasional's chances in the coming general election, he said: "I don't think so. Afterall I am not leaving BN. Furthermore, the election might only be held in 1999."

On his relationship with state BN leaders, he said it was "very well".

Ghapur, who met Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam at his (Ghapur's) residence here today, said he explained to the latter about his move to resign.

He said he was leaving it to the Umno leadership to decide on his action, and that he would write to Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter. -- BERNAMA

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