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Mahathir-Melaka

MAHATHIR MAY APPOINT ACTING MELAKA CHIEF MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, May 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he may consider appointing someone to act as Melaka chief minister while stroke-stricken Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani recuperates.

But he said it was premature for him to find a successor to Mohd Zin who is being treated at the Tawakal Hospital here after suffering a stroke on Sunday.

"It is too early to appoint (a new chief minister) but if it is difficult for him to resume work soon, we may have to look for a successor or someone to act for him," Dr Mahathir told reporters at Parliament House lobby here.

The Melaka chief minister was admitted to Tawakal following a stroke, affecting his left brain, at his residence in Klang Gate here at 4.30 am on Sunday.

Dr Mahathir said he was informed that up to noon today Mohd Zin was still in a coma since he visited him for the second time last night.

On a successor to Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, the prime minister said he has yet to look around for a domestic trade and consumer affairs minister-designate.

Abu Hassan relinquished the Cabinet post upon being named by the prime minister as Selangor Menteri Besar-designate to succeed Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib who resigned last month.

"Not yet. It still concerns me trying to find out who you want," he said in lighter vein.

Asked whether tomorrow's weekly Cabinet meeting will discuss filling in the vacancy, he said: "We always discuss many things, perhaps we may, perhaps we may not."

Muhammad gave up the Menteri Besar post after facing charges in the Brisbane Magistrate's Court of failing to declare the equivalent of RM2.4 million in cash which he was about to take out of Australia.

Abu Hassan, who also resigned as Kuala Selangor Member of Parliament to contest in the Permatang state by-election, has to win the state seat to qualify for stewardship of the Selangor state administration.

Polling for the state by-election has been fixed for May 29 and nomination, May 20.-- BERNAMA

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