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MAHATHIR:ANWAR WILL DECIDE ON MELAKA CM

SERI ISKANDAR, May 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he will leave it to his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to appoint the new Melaka Chief Minister following the death of Datuk Seri Mohd Zin Abdul Ghani yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said as he will be going on a two-month leave soon, Anwar, who will be the acting Prime Minister, will have "full authority" to make the appointment.

The Prime Minister said he has some candidates in mind but has not made any decision and there was no hurry to fill the post.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after launching Safire Pharmaceuticals (M) Sdn Bhd factory here today.

When asked if he is going to make another surprise by appointing another federal minister to the post like he did in the Selangor Menteri Besar case, the Prime Minister jokingly said his intention was "to make a real surprise" by appointing a reporter to the post.

-- BERNAMA

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