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PM: Ghapur reconsidering decision to quit

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh is reconsidering his decision to resign as Deputy Chief Minister, State Finance Minister and deputy chairman of the Sabah Umno liaison committee, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said he met Abdul Ghapur at his office yesterday and advised him to reconsider his decision to resign from all three posts.

"I have not accepted his resignation. He explained to me ... I also explained to him and advised him to reconsider his decision," Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the party headquarters.

On Dec 13, Abdul Ghapur, 54, announced his resignation as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister with effect from Dec 18. He also resigned from the post of deputy chairman of the Sabah Umno liaison committee with immediate effect.

Abdul Ghapur cited personal problems and his failure to discharge his duties as reasons for his resignation, stating that his decision was final.

Asked to describe Abdul Ghapur's reaction to his advice, Dr Mahathir said he gave indications that he would reconsider his decision.

On whether Abdul Ghapur's resignation had already taken effect, he said Abdul Ghapur was still Deputy Chief Minister, Finance Minister and deputy chairman of the Sabah Umno liaison committee.

The Prime Minister said for as long as he (Dr Mahathir) had not made any official decision on the matter, Abdul Ghapur would remain in the posts.

"He will inform me of his decision soon," he said, when asked how much time Abdul Ghapur would need to reconsider his decision. Dr Mahathir said the supreme council did not discuss the matter at its meeting today.

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