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Umno to discuss Sabah Deputy CM's resignation

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UMNO will discuss the resignation of Sabah Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said.

Ghapur, who is also Sabah Finance Minister and Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief announced his resignation effective immediately in Tawau but will continue to serve as the Tawau Umno divisional chief until election scheduled next year.

"He gave personal reasons. We will be discussing this with the leadership including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to find out the real situation before any decisions is made," Anwar, who is the Umno deputy president, said when asked on Ghapur's resignation.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the "Sports for All" in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Ghapur was appointed to the Sabah Cabinet after the Barisan Nasional took over the State Government in March 1994.

Earlier, when opening the sporting activities, Anwar asked the younger generation to invite their parents to take up the activities which exceed age boundary.

"It can be done in a cheap way and it is healthy," he said adding that the Youth and Sports Ministry has recently received an International Olympic Council award for community participation in sports programmes.

Anwar and his wife also participated in an aerobic minutes session with Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The road in front of the Sultan Abdul Samad Building was transformed into temporary sports field and courts for various sporting activities such as volleyball, streetball, diveball, tennis, netball, ping pong, silat and mountain climbing.

Bernamea reports: Ghapur said yesterday 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 in Kota Kinabalu.

He said he is 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," Ghapur said.

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 on Saturday.

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