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Umno, BN leaders urge Ghapur to reconsider

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Several State Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders expressed shock over Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh's abrupt resignation as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister, with some calling on him to reconsider his decision.

They said Ghapur, who also resigned as Sabah Umno deputy chief, should have taken into account the current economic problems faced by Malaysia before arriving at the decision.

Ghapur, who is on leave, announced his decision to resign last Saturday, citing "personal problems" and failure to perform the duties entrusted to him.

His resignation as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister would take effect on the last day of his leave on Dec 18, while his resignation as Sabah Umno deputy chief took effect yesterday.

State Umno information chief Datuk Karim Ghani said the Sabah Umno liaison committee should convene an emergency meeting to discuss Ghapur's resignation.

Libaran Member of Parliament Akhbar Khan Abdul Rahman said Ghapur's resignation should be viewed seriously as his decision might have been prompted by problems in Sabah Umno that merits urgent attention.

Sabah Umno Youth chief Jema Khan Datuk Majid said Ghapur should have taken into account the overall interest of the State and the people as the posts he was holding were important.

Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, who is also State Tourism and Environment Minister, said he did not expect Ghapur to resign.

Liberal Demokratik Party (LDP) president Datuk Chong Kah Kiat also expressed shock and disappointment.

Sabah MCA secretary and Api-Api Assemblyman Datuk Chau Tet On said Ghapur should have consulted the State BN before making the shocking decision.

Meanwhile, Ghapur left for Kuala Lumpur last night but declined to say if he would be meeting the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

"I don't think there is any necessity for me to see the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister as I had already explained to Sabah Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Osu Sukammy decision to quit," he told reporters at the airport here.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee today officially notified Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his Deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in writing about Ghapur's resignation.

(END)