

Ghapur quits as Sabah Umno deputy chairman

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KOTA KINABALU: Former Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh has resigned as Sabah Umno deputy chairman but remains Tawau Umno division chief.

Ghapur said yesterday that he had submitted his resignation letter three weeks ago to Sabah Umno chairman Datuk Osu Sukam who on Sunday declined to confirm receiving it.

"So far, I have not received any reply to my resignation letter," Ghapur told reporters in Tawau.

He said he resigned from the post because it

should be held by someone serving in the state or federal governments.

Ghapur, 55, resigned as deputy chief minister, state finance minister and state Umno deputy chairman in December 1996 when Datuk Yong Teck Lee was the chief minister.

But he withdrew his resignations from all three posts the following month after saying that he was heeding the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

When Tan Sri Bernard Dompok took over from Yong on May 28 this year

under Barisan Nasional's rotation of chief minister, Ghapur reportedly declined re-appointment in the state Cabinet.

The posts of deputy chief minister and finance minister were taken over by Osu who quit the federal Cabinet.

Osu's Land and Co-operative Development portfolio at the federal level went to Kinabalu Umno division chairman Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam.

Asked whether (he) Ghapur had informed Dr Mahathir about his resignation, Ghapur said he had not as it involved only the state Umno.