

16 MAY 1998

Mahathir-Sabah

MAHATHIR TO ANNOUNCE NEW SABAH CM "WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT"

KUALA LUMPUR, May 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will name the new Sabah chief minister "when the time is right".

"I have been thinking very much about the new chief minister of Sabah all the way," the Prime Minister told reporters upon his return from an eight-day visit to Egypt and Sudan.

"I will inform you (the media) when the time is right," he said when asked if he had decided on the successor to the present chief minister, Datuk Yong Teck Lee, whose term expires on May 27.

Asked if he would make the announcement in Kuala Lumpur or Kota Kinabalu, Dr Mahathir said he had not decided about that.

Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, was earlier expected to name the new chief minister when he visited the state on May 7, but the Prime Minister said he would do so after he returned from his overseas visit.

Under the rotation system promised by BN which swept to power in the last state election, the next chief minister would be a candidate from the non-Muslim Bumiputera community after the turns of the Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese communities.

Tun Sakaran Dandai was the first to be appointed chief minister and he was replaced by Datuk Salleh Tun Said when Sakaran was appointed the Yang Dipertua Negeri.

Yong took over on May 28, 1996.

-- BERNAMA

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