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Dompok to succeed Yong as Sabah CM

Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Parti Demokratik Sabah president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok will be the next Sabah Chief Minister, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced today.

Dompok, who is State Tourism and Environment Minister, succeeds Datuk Yong Teck Lee whose two-year term ends next Thursday.

Anwar said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked him to make the announcement.

Dr Mahathir who underwent a minor ankle surgery earlier this week is still recuperating at the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Hospital in Cheras.

"Dompok must meet the Prime Minister as soon as possible to discuss his new State Cabinet line-up before he takes his oath of office," said Anwar.

Anwar made the announcement after chairing a meeting on the new provisions for the export credit facility at the Treasury.

The announcement ended weeks of speculation on who would replace Yong.

Both Dompok and Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup, who is Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president, were tipped as likely candidates to replace Yong.

Under the Barisan Nasional's power-sharing concept in Sabah, the chief ministership is rotated every two years among the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese.

The rotation system was implemented when Barisan Nasional took over the State administration in March 1994.

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