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GHAPUR DENIES JOINING THE OPPOSITION

TAWAU, June 5 (Bernama) -- Former Sabah Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh has denied rumours that he has joined the opposition.

He said the rumours were created to split Sabah Umno.

"I will not leave Umno since it is the only party which can safeguard the interest of bumiputeras in Sabah and I will continue my struggle and contributions for Umno," he told reporters, here.

Ghapur said his decision to be excluded from the state cabinet had led to speculations especially from the opposition.

In fact, he said he had decided to resign from the state cabinet in December but stayed on after being advised so by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Ghapur said he had written to Dr Mahathir in April this year that he was no longer interested to hold both posts and this had been agreed to by the prime minister.

Ghapur expressed confidence in his successor Datuk Osu Sukam who would assume duties on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

IL ZUL ABG