

05/06/1998

Osu Sukam to be appointed Sabah Deputy Chief Minister

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Land and Co-operative Development Minister Datuk Osu Sukam will be appointed Sabah Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

Confirming this today, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the appointment would take effect from Monday.

Speaking at a Press conference to announce details of the Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd at the Finance Ministry, Anwar said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed to the appointment.

"Datuk Osu will resign (from his Federal post) before Monday," he said when asked by reporters to confirm news report today that Osu had resigned.

Osu is the Sabah Umno liaison committee chairman, MP for Papar as well as the Kawang State Assemblyman.

He is taking up the post vacated by Datuk Ghapur Salleh who declined to be reappointed when the State Cabinet was reshuffled following the appointment of Tan Sri Bernard Dompok as Chief Minister of Sabah.

On Osu's replacement, Anwar said the matter was the prerogative of Dr Mahathir as Prime Minister.

He declined to comment on whether former Chief Minister and Kota Belud MP Datuk Salleh Said would replace Osu.

Meanwhile, Bernama quotes Osu as saying he is returning to State politics to further strengthen the Barisan Nasional for the next State election.

"This is what the party leadership wants after taking into account what has happened and it is an important duty in the interests of the party and Sabah," he said in an interview.

He said he would make full use of his 12 years' experience at the Federal level, including four as a Cabinet Minister, which had matured him, especially in viewing each issue from the national angle and not from the State or narrow angle.

Osu said his experience as a Cabinet Minister under Dr Mahathir's leadership was valuable and an honour, and had honed his administrative skills and matured his thinking.

"Where previously, before to coming to Kuala Lumpur, I had thought only of what was good for Sabah, now I am more matured in looking at the needs of a multiracial society," he said.

"We must not be narrow-minded in thinking only what is good for ourselves, our community or race ... the interests of others must also be considered," he said.

(END)