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PM gets list of candidates to replace Osu Sukam

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. - Sabah Umno has forwarded to the Prime Minister its recommendation on the potential candidates to replace Datuk Osu Sukam as Land and Co-operative Development Minister.

Osu, who is Sabah Umno liaison committee chief, vacated the post on June 8 to pave the way for his appointment as Sabah Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the State Umno liaison meeting here last night, Osu said appointment to the Federal Cabinet was the prerogative of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

It was reported that the likely candidates for the post were former Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said, Deputy Works Minister Datuk Railey Jeffrey and Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Shafie Apdal.

Dr Mahathir had said on June 5 that the post vacated by Osu would be filled by a Sabah Umno leader.

On the position of Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh, who declined to be re-appointed to the Cabinet of new Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Giluk Dompok, Osu said he was still Sabah Umno deputy chief.

Ghapur, who is Tawau Umno division chief and Merotai Assemblyman, did not attend the State Umno liaison meeting last night.

On the sacking of 11 Umno members from Sabah for joining the Parti Barisan Rakyat Sabah Bersekutu (Bersekutu), Osu said the decision was made by the Supreme Council following a report from Sabah Umno.

Those sacked were Datuk Askalani Abdul Rahim, Datuk Dr Zulkipli Abdul Hamid, Lassim Abdul Rahman, Mohd Dini Khan, Mohd Topik Awang Ajak, Naim Ahmad, Ahmas Nungsi OKK Mahadi, Uda Sulai, Isnain Amat, Pengiran Othman Rauf and Datuk Monggoh Orow.

(END)