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PM thinking hard over choice of new CM

PETALING JAYA, Sat. - The new Chief Minister of Sabah to replace Datuk Yong Teck Lee will be announced soon, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"I have been thinking very hard ... all the way. When the time is right, I will inform you," Dr Mahathir said at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah International Airport in Subang upon arrival from his official eight-day visit to Egypt and Sudan.

The Sabah Barisan Nasional component party leaders with whom Dr Mahathir met on May 7, had given him the mandate to choose the next Chief Minister. Yong's term ends on May 27.

Dr Mahathir had said he would make the announcement when he returned from Egypt and Sudan.

The new Chief Minister will complete the first round of the rotation system implemented in 1994 when the BN took over the State administration.

Asked if he would be visiting Sabah in the next 12 days, Dr Mahathir said he had no plans.

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