

28/11/1998

Request for more funds dominates meeting

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Sabah's request for additional development funds from the Federal Government dominated a 45-minute meeting between the State Cabinet and Prime Minister Datuk Dr Mahathir Mohamad here, today.

Describing the meeting as fruitful, Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said the State Government would leave it to the Prime Minister to decide on the amount to be allocated to the State.

"I suppose he has to look at the thick file we have presented to him," Dompok said after leading the State Cabinet for a meeting with Dr Mahathir at the Shangri-La Tanjung Aru Resort.

Except for Minister in the Chief Minister's Department Datuk Yong Teck Lee, who is undergoing follow-up treatment in Singapore for a bile duct operation, all members of the State Cabinet attended the meeting.

Dompok said Sabah needed millions of ringgit to implement basic infrastructure such as water and electricity supplies, in the rural areas.

He said the State Government wanted to give priority to the implementation of projects urgently required by the rural people. "We want to implement projects that matters to the people in the rural areas so that they can be made more aware of the presence of a Government that cares."

Dompok said the State Cabinet also brought to the Prime Minister's attention the State Government's plan to fully exploit its natural resources to attract more tourists to the State.

The Cabinet also presented Dr Mahathir with a request by the State tourism industry for more flights to Sabah.

"We also asked the Federal Government to consider our request for Kota Kinabalu to be accorded city status," he said.

Dompok, who is State Barisan Nasional chairman, said he also took the opportunity to pledge the State Cabinet's full support to the Government in dealing with problems related to the economy and politics.

Asked if preparations for the State election was discussed at the meeting, Dompok said: "Not very much, as the State Government wanted to focus on solving the economic problem."

(END)