

06 MAY 1998

Yong-CM

SABAH CABINET TO SUPPORT MAHATHIR'S CHOICE FOR CM

KOTA KINABALU, May 6 (Bernama) -- The Sabah cabinet will support whoever Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad names as the next chief minister.

This was decided at its weekly meeting today, Outgoing Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee told a media conference after the meeting.

Asked if he had been informed of his successor, he said: " Let's wait for Dr Mahathir's news conference tomorrow."

Dr Mahathir will be in Sabah tomorrow to meet state Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders to decide on Yong's successor.

Yong's two-year term ends on May 28. His successor will be from the non-muslim bumiputera community.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup and state Tourism and Environment Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok are the forerunners for the post.

Under the rotation system implemented by the BN after it took over the state administration in 1994, the chief minister's post will be rotated for two years among the three major communities -- Muslim bumiputera, non-Muslim bumiputera and the Chinese.

The first chief minister under the rotation system came from the Muslim bumiputera community followed by Yong, representing the Chinese.

-- BERNAMA

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