

28 MAY 1998

Ghapur-Umno

SABAH UMNO KNEW OF GHAPUR'S DECISION ONLY THIS MORNING

KOTA KINABALU, May 28 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno only this morning came to know of Datuk Ghapur Salleh's decision not to seek reappointment to the State Cabinet led by new Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, its secretary Datuk Yahya Hussin said.

He said the Chairman of the State Umno Liaison Committee Datuk Osu Sukam would comment further on Ghapur's decision later.

"The Umno leadership will decide on filling the post...", he said.

Ghapur served as Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Finance in the government of Datuk Yong Teck Lee. He is also the State Umno Deputy Chief.

Ghapur earlier told reporters that he had informed Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of his decision not to seek reappointment to the state cabinet led by Dompok.

He was at Istana Negeri to attend the swearing-in of Dompok as the new Chief Minister of Sabah but did not stay on for the ceremony when the Yang Dipertua Negeri gave out letters of appointment or reappointment to the State Cabinet.

Ghapur said he would issue a statement next week on his decision not to seek reappointment to the Sabah Cabinet.

Dompok has retained all 10 State Ministers who served under Yong but their portfolios had not been decided.

Among those who received letters of appointment or reappointment were Datuk Yong Teck Lee (former Chief Minister), Datuk Joseph Kurup, Datuk Tham Nyip Shen, Datuk Lajim Ukin, Datuk Wilfred Bumburing, Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia Yahya, Datuk Raymond Tan and Datuk Dayang Mahani Pengiran Ahmad Raffae.

Ghapur had in fact announced his resignation from the State Cabinet in December but withdrew it in January.

Ghapur is also Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Merotai.

Meanwhile when reporters asked Yong about his appointment to the Cabinet, he said, "I have a new feeling...serving in another role."

Asked why had been retained in the Cabinet, Yong said reporters should direct this question to the new Chief Minister.

-- BERNAMA

KG PR AAM