

27 MAY 1998

Yong-Quit

YONG QUILTS SABAH FOUNDATION CHAIRMANSHIP

KOTA KINABALU, May 27 (Bernama) -- Datuk Yong Teck Lee, who steps down as Sabah Chief Minister tomorrow, has also quit as Sabah Foundation chairman.

The letter of resignation, which takes effect tomorrow, was handed to the foundation's corporate secretary through the State Secretary Datuk Khalil Datu Jamalul today.

He said his resignation would pave the way for the appointment of a new chairman.

Prior to the amendments of the Sabah Foundation Enactment two years ago, the chief minister would automatically be the foundation's chairman, he told reporters after chairing his last state Cabinet meeting today.

Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok will be sworn in tomorrow as the 11th Chief Minister of Sabah.

Yong tendered his resignation letter as Chief Minister to the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai today. The letter takes effect tomorrow.

Following amendments to the enactment, the foundation's chairman would now be appointed by the Yang Dipertua Negeri on the advice of the state Cabinet.

On his meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Yong said: " We discussed on what an out-going chief minister like me must do."

Asked whether he had discussed with Dompok on his future role, he said all members of the present Cabinet are available to serve.

In a press statement issued after the Cabinet meeting, Yong said the two-year term as chief minister was an extension of his public service which started in 1985 when he served the state as an assistant minister.

He said he had steadfastly focussed his attention on a number of priority areas in accordance with his pledge as chief minister.

The priorities were to accelerate economic development, instilling new political culture and taking aggressive steps to reduce poverty, he said.

Other priority areas were educational development, improving administrative machinery and stepping up enforcement of law and order, he said.

He said the new political culture based on consultations, cooperation and trust had been accepted at various levels of government and society.

Yong said 24 federal and state agencies were engaged in implementing poverty eradication programmes for which RM2.11 billion had been allocated under the Seventh Malaysia Plan.

He also said many complex and controversial issues had been resolved by the state government through collective responsibility and excellent relations with the federal government.

Yong also said he had full confidence in the leadership of Dompok as he understood the Barisan Nasional's (BN) concept of governance and the state government's plans for Sabah.

He urged the people of Sabah, the public and private sectors to support Dompok to ensure Sabah continued to progress under the BN.

-- BERNAMA

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