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YONG WELCOMES GHAPUR'S MOVE TO RESUME DUTIES

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 2 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee today welcomed the news that Datuk Ghapur Salleh has decided to resume duties as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

"I welcome him back to the team and I have full confidence in his ability to discharge his duties well," he said in a statement here this evening.

Ghapur also withdrew his resignation as deputy chairman of the state's Umno liaison committee after he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur today.

Ghapur had in his hometown Tawau on Dec 13 last year announced his resignation from the posts citing personal problems and his failure to carry out his duties as a member of the state cabinet.

Today, Yong who is also the state's Barisan Nasional chairman said that being a senior member of the state cabinet and an experienced leader, Ghapur's services were needed.

"His decision to return is an act of sacrifice, putting state's interest above politics and personal feelings," he said in the four-paragraph statement. --BERNAMA

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