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Osu-Appointments

OSU HAILS PANDIKAR'S AND SHAFIE'S APPOINTMENTS

KOTA KINABALU, May 20 (Bernama) -- Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman Datuk Osu Sukam today expressed his appreciation to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the appointments of two Sabah BN members in the federal government.

Describing it as a major honour for the state, he said the Sabah BN would continue to extend full cooperation and support to the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

"I have also stressed to the Umno leadership that we need a working culture where leaders' status and dignity improve but where they could be assessed and continued to be appreciated by their seniors," he told reporters after chairing a state Umno meeting.

Osu was commenting on the appointment of Parti Akar president Datuk Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department and of Information Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Shafie Apdal, who is from Sabah Umno, as Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister.

On the appointment Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob as Umno secretary-general and a federal minister, Osu said Khalil had a better understanding of the situation in Sabah after serving as the director of operations for Sabah BN in the recent state election.

Khalil, who is Pahang menteri besar, replaces Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik as Umno secretary-general.

He also takes over as Information Minister from Datuk Mohamed Rahmat. The appointments were announced by Dr Mahathir this morning.

-- BERNAMA