

01/08/1999

Panel to decide on deputy IGP's post

Tony Emmanuel

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Police Commission will meet next week to decide on a candidate for the Deputy Inspector-General of Police post, a position left vacant since April.

The meeting, to be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would name a candidate and forward it to the King for royal consent.

Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah is expected to make the appointment on the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The post fell vacant when Tan Sri Norian Mai assumed the post of IGP in April.

Although the announcement was made in April, Norian's appointment was made effective Jan 8.

There has been much interest and speculation on the post as it was the first time in the force's history that the No. 2 post was left vacant.

"Due to his hectic schedule, the Home Minister was not able to chair the Police Commission's meeting earlier," an aide disclosed.

"We are aware there are those who are politicising the issue but the Home Minister is required to attend the commission meeting, but he was unable to do so due to his hectic schedule," the aide said.

It was learnt that once the new deputy IGP had been appointed, several transfers and promotions will take place.

"Three senior officers are retiring this year and the Minister will ensure a smooth transition for those posts," the aide said.

They are Director of Internal Security and Public Order Datuk Ghazali Yacub, who turns 55 on Oct 24; his deputy Datuk Yusof Said (on Aug 14) and Federal police Deputy Director of Management Datuk Hassan Mutalip (on Nov 14).

As Yusof is on leave prior to retirement, former Federal traffic chief Datuk Supian Amat had been promoted and assumed the post.

(END)