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SABBARUDDIN PREPARED TO RESIGN IF ASKED TO DO SO BY PM

TEMERLOH, May 16 (Bernama) -- Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik said today he is prepared to step down if asked to do so by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

There was no question of resigning on his own because to do so would mean disagreeing with the Umno president and prime minister, he told reporters, here.

He said he had never opposed Dr Mahathir and would always respect him.

Press reports had said that Sabbaruddin, 58, had kidney problem and quoted him as saying that he expected a minor cabinet reshuffle that may involve him to be held soon.

Met here today, Sabbaruddin, who is also Umno secretary-general, said he was carrying out his normal duties but "if the (party) president asks us to resign, we will."

Sabbaruddin, who is also MP for Temerloh, was appointed Deputy Finance Minister in 1982 and Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister five years later.

-- BERNAMA

ZY MAI JK