

19 MAY 1999

Sabbaruddin-Tribute

SABBARUDDIN SAYS THANK YOU FOR COOPERATION RENDERED TO HIM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik tonight expressed his gratitude to all parties for their cooperation extended to him in his 12 years as Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

" I wished to thank everyone for their cooperation given to me as this is my last function as Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister," he said when launching the logo of the National Theatre.

Sabbaruddin said he was initially reluctant to attend the function but changed his mind after being advised by his officers.

Sabbaruddin had earlier confirmed that he would step down from his Cabinet post.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked him to do so at today's weekly Cabinet meeting. Dr Mahathir will announce a minor Cabinet reshuffle tomorrow.

Sabbaruddin said although he would not be holding the Culture, Arts and Tourism portfolio, he would continue to show keen interest in the national culture.

He hoped he would be invited to attend cultural functions staged at the National Theatre in future.

Sabbaruddin also said the Cabinet had agreed to the suggestion by culturist Tan Sri Abdul Samad Idris that the National Theatre (Panggung Negara) be called "Istana Budaya".

Located on a 5.4-hectare site at Jalan Temerloh off Jalan Tun Razak, the RM205 million facility is the first theatre in Asia to have a modern mechanism for staging theatres.

It is among the 10 most modern theatres in the world and on par with the Royal Albert Hall in London, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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