

# ***Moggie sticks by decision to step down***

**STAR 8 FEB 2002**

KUCHING: Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, who is standing by his decision not to seek re-election in next year's party polls, is keeping mum about his ministerial position and whether he will contest in the next general election.

The Energy, Communication and Multimedia Minister said the ministerial appointment was the prerogative of the Prime Minister.

"I have not discussed with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad nor Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud on my intention to step down from the party's top post as it is a party matter," he added.

He said he re-affirmed his

intention to quit to the PBDS supreme council at their monthly meeting at the party headquarters here yesterday.

"We agreed that we should work together as a team towards building a consensus for a new leadership," he told reporters after the meeting.

Moggie said the party wanted to ensure a smooth leadership transition in next year's party polls and avoid a keen contest for top posts as during the 2000 party polls.

In the polls, the party was divided into two camps - one led by deputy president Datuk Daniel Tajem and the other by vice-president Datuk Dr James Masing.

Tajem and his supporters won all the contested posts in

the supreme council.

Moggie said there were no more groupings in the party as "they are now more comfortable with each other."

Asked if he had a candidate in mind to succeed him, Moggie replied: "I have my view of who should take over. The views of this nature (expressed) in quiet discussions should only be revealed at an appropriate time."

He added that he did not know how party members generally felt about his intention to step down as party president.

"Some think I should reconsider while others may say it is about time for me to go," he said.