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Taib: I'll quit politics when the time comes

KUCHING, Mon. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is also Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) president, said he would quit politics when the time came for him to retire.

The State Barisan Nasional chairman was responding to a question from a reporter who asked whether it had ever crossed his mind to quit after about 22 years as Chief Minister and PBB president.

"I will quit when the time comes," he said at a Press conference arranged for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Bangunan Masja in Petra Jaya here.

The question was in reference to Dr Mahathir's announcement that he would resign as Umno president and Prime Minister in October next year.

Dr Mahathir had, when opening the PBB general assembly at Holiday Inn Damai Lagoon in Santubong earlier in the day, told the delegates he decided to retire as he has been Prime Minister and Umno president for 21 years.

Taib, who has been Chief Minister since 1981, was returned unopposed as PBB president for another three years when nominations for party posts closed on July 2.