

13 MAY 2002

Sabah-Successor

UMNO HOPES PANDIKAR AMIN'S SUCCESSION WILL BE FROM SABAH

KOTA KINABALU, May 13 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno hopes Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will appoint someone from Sabah as the successor to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia who will complete his term of service on Sunday.

"However this is left to the discretion of the Prime Minister," Sabah Umno Chief Datuk Musa Aman said today.

The Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman today announced that Pandikar Amin will cease to be a Federal Minister effective Sunday to coincide with the expiry of his term as Senator.

Samsudin, who is also Cabinet Secretary, explained that Pandikar's term as Senator could not be extended as he had already served the maximum two-year term as provided for in the Constitution.

Asked about the call to abolish the six nominated seats in the Sabah State Assembly, Musa said the State Barisan Nasional had its own views on the matter.

Yesterday head of the Parti Demokratik Malaysia Sabah Fung Ket Wing had proposed that the six nominated seats be abolished as the State Assembly was likely to have an additional 12 seats bringing the total number to 60 following the redelineation of electoral boundaries.

Meanwhile Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) President, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, expressed the hope that the six nominated seats would be retained even after the redelineation of electoral boundaries.

Earlier Musa, who is Sabah Finance Minister, witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Sabah Foundation and Sabah Shell Petroleum Co Ltd.

Under the MOU, Sabah Shell would donate RM361,000 to the Sabah Foundation to build an information centre for the Maliau Basin.

-- BERNAMA

MK MK AAM