

27 JUN 2002

Sabah-Endorsement

SABAH UMNO ENDORSES SUPREME COUNCIL'S STAND ON SUCCESSION

KOTA KINABALU, June 27 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Umno Liaison Committee today officially endorsed the Umno Supreme Council's decision to respect Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to resign from all party and government posts in October next year.

In announcing this, State Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Musa Aman said that the endorsement was reached at its meeting here today.

Sabah Umno had been shocked and taken by surprise by Dr Mahathir's sudden announcement at the Umno General Assembly on June 22 that he wanted to resign as Umno president and all positions in the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN), he told reporters after the meeting.

He said that initially, like everyone else, Sabah Umno's spontaneous response was to support the motion to reject Dr Mahathir's offer of resignation and to appeal for the president to retract his decision.

"However, after studying the Umno Supreme Council's decision, we will abide by the Supreme Council's decision. We are of the view that this decision respects and conforms with the wishes of the president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," he said.

In this respect, Sabah Umno also recorded its appreciation to the party president for having laid out a well-planned and smooth leadership transition timetable.

"We will also abide by Dr Mahathir's wish that Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi should succeed him," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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