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Musa-Abdullah (Reaction)

COOPERATE WITH THE NEXT CM, ABDULLAH TELLS BN LEADERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 4 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has expressed his hope that Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders in Sabah, particularly from Umno, will give their full cooperation to Datuk Musa Aman, who has been appointed the next Sabah Chief Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister said Sabah Umno had proven its strength with its resounding success in the last election.

"I hope that with this appointment, Umno in Sabah and the Barisan Nasional would give their support to him," he told a news conference at the RMAF base in Subang, near here, today.

Abdullah was there to send off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was leaving for Doha, Qatar, to attend the emergency meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Dr Mahathir had earlier announced that Musa, who is Sabah Umno chief, would succeed Datuk Chong Kah Kiat as Chief Minister when the latter's two-year term ends on March 27.

When asked about his duties as Acting Prime Minister for two months beginning Thursday, Abdullah said he hoped to carry out the task well.

"Work will be carried out as usual; there is a lot of work (to be done). I have to do the PM's work as well," he said.

Dr Mahathir will go on leave for two months, from Thursday till May 4, and in his absence Abdullah will be the Acting Prime Minister and Acting Finance Minister.

Meanwhile, several BN component party leaders have congratulated Musa for his appointment.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the announcement would stabilise the political situation in Sabah and end speculation on who would be the next Chief Minister.

"I would like to congratulate him, and I hope he will carry on the good work and work within the spirit of Barisan Nasional," he said.

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he was happy to know that Musa had been named the next Chief Minister and hoped that greater progress could be made during his tenure.

"He is a very experienced person, and we hope he also would continue to foster better relationships between Sabah and the rest of the country.

"We also hope greater infrastructure projects would be carried out for the people in Sabah," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AZH AT KHY YBY