

26 JUN 2003

Abdullah-Moggie

MOGGIE IS STILL MINISTER, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that Datuk Amar Leo Moggie, who has resigned as Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president, is still the Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister.

"As far as I know, he is still a minister. It's not a problem because the appointment of ministers is the prime minister's prerogative," he told reporters after opening the 8th Civil Service Conference at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan), here.

Moggie confirmed his resignation from the post today.

Abdullah said Moggie informed him and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about his intention to resign yesterday.

"He said that this was the best approach so that his successor could resolve whatever problems faced by the party," he said.

Asked about Moggie's reason for resigning, he said: "There's no need for me to speak for him...he knows more about what's going on in his party.

Moggie, one of the country's longest-serving ministers, had earlier told PBDS members that he was stepping down this year as leader of the party which he founded 20 years ago and they must prepare to take over.

PBDS deputy president Datuk Seri Daniel Tajem said today that he had assumed the post of president following Moggie's resignation, as provided for under the party constitution.

On the appointments announced by Dr Mahathir on Tuesday, Abdullah said he hoped that all the individuals given new jobs and responsibilities would discharge their duties well.

The Prime Minister among others named Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy as the new Transport Minister, replacing Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik who has resigned.

-- BERNAMA

HS KHY MAI JK