

18 MAR 2003

Musa-cabinet

MUSA TO CHAIR SABAH CABINET MEETING TOMORROW

KOTA KINABALU, March 18 (Bernama) -- Acting Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman will chair the weekly state cabinet meeting tomorrow.

A brief statement issued by Chief Minister Department's Press and Publication Division, here today said Musa is also expected to give a press conference after the cabinet meeting, scheduled to begin at 10am at Wisma Innoprise.

Musa, who is Sabah Finance Minister, is expected to be sworn in as the new the Chief Minister on March 28, succeeding Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, who is on leave. Chong's two-year term ends on March 27.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced on March 4 that Musa, 52, who is also Sabah Umno Liaison chairman, would succeed Chong under the rotation system for the Chief Minister's post practised in Sabah after the Barisan Nasional (BN) took over the state government from Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) on March 17, 1994.

The first leader to be appointed chief minister under the system was Tun (then Tan Sri) Sakaran Dandai of Umno, who held the post until December 1994 when Datuk Salleh Tun Said took over following Sakaran's appointment as Sabah Yang Dipertua Negeri.

Salleh was succeeded by Datuk Yong Teck Lee, representing the Chinese community, who in turn was replaced by Tan Sri Bernard Dompok representing the non-Muslim bumiputera community.

Dompok, however, lost in the 1999 election and the post reverted to a Muslim bumiputera through the appointment of Datuk Osu Sukam, Chong's predecessor.

The system underwent a slight change under Chong, who represented the Chinese community, when it was decided that an Umno representative would alternate between the Chinese and non-Muslim bumiputera representatives in holding the post.

-- BERNAMA

NT ABG