

20/02/2003

Chong to stay as CM until successor is named

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat will continue to lead the State Cabinet until Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad approves his leave application or appoint a successor.

Chong said if his leave was not approved, he would serve as Chief Minister until his term in office expires on March 27.

"It (leave application) has not been decided yet by the Prime Minister. I submitted the application on Feb 6. I requested that he decide on my successor so that there will be no unnecessary expectations and lobbying.

"My successor can act (as Chief Minister) until I officially hand over duties on March 27. The idea is to tell people that we have a term and we abide by it," he said here today.