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No lobbying for CM's post, says Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he had not heard of any report on lobbying among Umno members for the Sabah Chief Minister's post which will fall to the party next month.

He said he would speak to his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, on the new appointment and will make an announcement soon.

The Chief Minister's post now held by Datuk Chong Kah Kiat expires next month under the rotation system. Umno's turn is next.

Chong, who is the Liberal Democratic Party president, is the sixth leader of the State BN component party to assume the post of Chief Minister under the rotation system, which was introduced in 1994.

The system rotates the chief ministership among the leaders of the Muslim Bumiputera, Chinese and non-Muslim Bumiputera communities for a two-year term each.

Speaking to reporters after a special briefing for Umno leaders on privately-run People's Religious School (Sekolah Agama Rakyat) at the Putra World Trade Centre here, Dr Mahathir said several names were being considered.