

Taib meets Sarawak governor this Saturday

Malaysian Insider

Feb 10, 2014

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Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud will meet the Yang Dipertua Negeri, Tun Abang Sallahuddin Abang Barieng this Saturday to submit his resignation letter and the name of his successor.

The 78-year-old Taib said he was looking forward to his retirement, which he confirmed, from the post he had held for 33 years.

The Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu president and Sarawak BN chairman is said to be taking over as the next Yang Dipertua Negeri of Sarawak, after Abang Sallahuddin's tenure expires at the end of the month.

"I look forward to do anything useful for the country at a leisurely pace," he told reporters when asked on his retirement plans.

Taib became the chief minister in 1981, taking over from his uncle Tun Abdul Rahman Ya'kub, after a bitter dispute between the two. Abdul Rahman who was later appointed as the Sarawak governor.

There is speculation that after his meeting with the Governor, Taib will announce the date of his retirement as well as his successor, who is said to be from among three names.

They include Special Functions Minister Tan Sri Adenan Satem, Housing Minister Datuk Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg, 64 and Second Minister for Resource Planning and Environment, Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan.

Adenan, is PBB's information chief; Abang Johari its deputy president II and Awang Tengah a senior vice president.

Adenan, a lawyer by training and once a journalist with Brunei-based Borneo Bulletin, is said to be the favourite to succeed Taib.

Meanwhile, Home Minister and Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Umno will respect Taib's decision and his choice of successor.

“The decisions should in fact be respected by all the 13 BN component parties as the final decision taken by the party,” said Zahid, when met at the gathering marking the Rela anniversary.

He said the transition plan agreed by Taib, PBB and the state Barisan Nasional showed the maturity of the state's politics.

“They adhered the rules and followed the political tradition of the state.”

Earlier today, Zahid, who was in Sarawak on a working visit, had a security briefing with Taib and members of the state security committee at Wisma Bapa Malaysia.

He however denied there was any discussion of a snap state election, as speculated by the media.

Zahid said his visit to Sarawak had nothing to do with Taib's resignation and was “planned long ago” as part of the biannual security briefing by the Home Ministry to the state. – February 10, 2014.

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