

Sabah CM Extends His Best Wishes To Bernard Dompok
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KOTA KINABALU, March 5 (Bernama) -- Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman has extended his best wishes to Tan Sri Bernard Dompok who has announced his resignation as United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) president.

"I wish him (Dompok) well on all his future endeavours," Musa said in a statement Wednesday.

Musa, who is also Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, said the BN would remain strong despite a leadership transition in one of its coalition parties.

"Leadership transitions is normal. I have every confidence that the new UPKO leadership will be able to spearhead the party, cooperate and remain united in the spirit of the BN," he said.

Dompok announced his resignation as UPKO president effective March 21 after helming the party for 20 years.

Meanwhile, Sabah Deputy Chief Minister and Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Tan Sri Joseph Pairin Kitingan said Dompok made the decision in light of the current situation.

"So, we've to respect Tan Sri Bernard's decision. We'll also be retiring soon. So, it's not something unusual," he told reporters after opening a talk on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) organised by the Customs Department here.

Dompok, 64, at a news conference at Nabaluru Lodge in Putaton, Penampang, said it was time for him to step down and hand over the reins to an individual with fresh ideas to lead the party in a changing political landscape.

Penampang born Dompok, who was former plantation industries and commodities minister, said UPKO deputy president Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau would become acting president following his resignation as stipulated in the party's constitution.

Dompok had also served as Sabah chief minister in the BN-led state government under a two-year rotation system in 1998.

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