

**Dompok Thanks Najib For Appointment As Ambassador To Vatican City**  
**Bernama**  
**Oct 27, 2015**

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Former Federal Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok today thanked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for the government's decision to appoint him as the first resident ambassador to the Holy See (Vatican City) and also as ambassador to Malta and Albania.

While saying that he felt humbled to be given the honour, Dompok, who is also former Chief Minister of Sabah, said he also had Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Anifah Aman and Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Wilfred Datuk Madius Tangau to thank for the appointment.

"I recollect the early days when the proposal to set up diplomatic ties with the Vatican was first mooted when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the Prime Minister. It was discussed during his visit to the Vatican to pay a courtesy call to Pope John Paul II.

"Discussion was also held during the primeministership of Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. The Apostolic Delegate of the Vatican to Malaysia flew in from Bangkok to call on the prime minister and the subject of diplomatic ties was also discussed," he said in a statement here today.

According to Dompok it was his great privilege to have been present at those discussions, but unfortunately, there was no interest to consider the matter seriously at that time.

"It was only when Datuk Seri Najib became the Prime Minister and Datuk Seri Anifah Aman the Foreign Minister that the matter was taken up seriously and agreed upon by the Federal Cabinet.

"During the visit by the prime minister to Pope Benedict at the latter's summer residence Castel Gandolfo, diplomatic relations between Malaysia and the Vatican was formalised," he added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1184037>