

Sabah maintains stand to claim 20 pct oil royalty - Mohd Shafie

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KOTA KINABALU, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- The Sabah state government is firm on its stand to claim 20 per cent oil royalty based on the gross profit and not net profit, says Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

Mohd Shafie said the government had met national oil company, Petroliam National Berhad (Petronas) apart from meeting Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as well as Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali to discuss the matter in the interest of Sabahans.

"I believe it (20 pct oil royalty claim) would be realised. I had stated the stand of the Sabah government to Petronas that the state Cabinet had decided the 20 per cent oil royalty is based on gross profit.

"I am confident if the matter is discussed amicably it will be a reality and enable the state government to have more financial resources to manage Sabah as it is a big state and needs more funds for development.

"This includes providing to more sectors and creating employment opportunities for Sabahans, thus reducing their migration to Peninsular Malaysia to seek jobs," he said in a media conference in conjunction with the first 100 days of the Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan)-led government in the state here today.

Mohd Shafie who is also the state Finance Minister said Sabah is entitled to receive the royalty as Sabah has been willing to share its natural resources and 50 per cent of the oil production is from the state.

On the position of the former chief minister Tan Sri Musa Aman as Sungai

Sibuga assemblyman, Mohd Shafie said the state government would leave it to the full powers of the state constitution to determine the matter.

"The state constitution clearly states that if a person fails to take his oath as assemblyman during the set period, the seat will automatically be vacated and a by-election will have to be held.

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