

PM to name new UMS head during visit

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Kota Kinabalu: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is expected to announce who will succeed retiring Tan Sri Prof Abu Hassan Othman as Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sabah during his visit here next week.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh said the names had been submitted to Abdullah. Prof Abu Hassan is due to retire on March 17 when he turns 65.

However, Shafie did not disclose any names. "I forgot," he said when asked.

Prof Abu Hassan, who is the UMS' first Vice Chancellor since 1994, was put in charge of overseeing the setting up of Sabah's first public university to what it is today.

Abdullah will make a two-day working visit to Sabah on Saturday.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said Abdullah was expected to meet members of the Backbenchers Club from throughout the country on the first day of the visit.

The meeting was arranged in conjunction with a retreat organised for club members at Nexus Resort in Karambunai, here, from March 4 to 6, he said.

The Prime Minister would also join a gotong-royong at a school in Karambunai on Sunday before leaving for Kuala Lumpur later the same day.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak will visit Sabah for two days from Friday for a dialogue session with the backbenchers. - Bernama