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Rotation

ROTATION ISSUE: SABAH BN PARTIES WANT PM TO DECIDE

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- Seven of the eight Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) components have agreed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad make the final decision on the rotation of the Chief Minister's post.

The troubled Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu (Akar Bersatu) however had yet to state its stand as its president Datuk Mark Koding, is believed to be overseas.

The latest party to state its stand on the the matter is the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) which in a statement today said "the SAPP is happy to leave the matter in the good hands of the Prime Minister."

Yesterday the Sabah Democratic Party (PDS) and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) had stated that they would prefer Dr Mahathir, who is also BN Chairman, to make the final decision.

They made the announcement after holding separate meetings with the Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Said Keruak here.

Salleh had also met Sabah MCA Secretary-General Datuk Chau Tet On and head of Sabah Gerakan Datuk Kong Hong Ming to discuss the matter and both had also stated their wish to leave the matter to Dr Mahathir.

The Chief Minister said he also got word from the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Datuk Chong Kah Kiat over the telephone that his party was behind other components on the matter.

Umno the backbone of the Sabah BN had all along opposed the move to rotate the Chief Minister's post among the state's three major communities, Muslim Bumiputeras, Non- Muslim Bumiputeras and Chinese and conveyed its stand to Dr Mahathir last year.

Salleh said all the parties had also agreed to convey their decision in writing direct to the Prime Minister.

The decision by the component parties was apparently in response to what Salleh had suggested last Wednesday that if they couldn't reach consensus on the matter or were neutral in their views, then it was wise for them to let Dr Mahathir to decide.

Salleh, after meeting Dr Mahathir last Tuesday revealed that the Prime Minister was willing to handle the matter provided that all the component parties made a clear undertaking to leave it to him for a final decision.--BERNAMA