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NO NEED FOR SNAP ELECTION, SAYS SALLEH

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) has no intention as yet to dissolve the state legislative assembly to pave way for a snap election in the state, Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Said Keruak said today.

"The present term of the legislative assembly will only end in 1999 and we feel at this stage there is no need to hold the election," he told reporters after Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib at his official residence at Seri Gaya here.

He said that the important thing now was to continue with the work and maintain stability.

Salleh was asked to comment on the call made by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) Deputy President Dr Maximus Ongkili to the state government last Wednesday to seek new mandate from the people.

Dr Ongkili said the election would be the honourable thing to do since the state BN did not actually win the 1994 election. In the election, the BN won 23 seats compared to 25 by the PBS but succeeded in the forming the state government when PBS elected representative defected the party and joined the BN.

On the rotation of the Chief Minister's post, Salleh said the matter had been left to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the final say.

He was confident that the matter would be resolved amicably. "Let's wait for the decision," he said. --BERNAMA