

24 MAR 1996

PDS-Congress

PDS WANTS ALTERNATIVE TO ROTATION OF CM'S POST

KUNDASANG, Sabah, March 24 (Bernama) -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) today resolved that an alternative be found if the proposal to rotate the Chief Minister's post among the state's three major communities does not materialise.

A resolution to this effect was approved by the PDS Second Congress at the Dewan Kinabalu, Taman Negara, here. It was opened by PDS President Datuk Bernard Dompok.

In the resolution the PDS, one of the eight components of the Sabah Barisan Nasional, also wanted posts and opportunities to be fairly distributed among the various communities in the state.

The PDS wanted the 4:4:2 quota to be implemented in all aspects such as in the award of scholarships, jobs and opportunities.

Forty per cent of all posts and opportunities should be reserved for Muslim Bumiputeras, another 40 per cent for non-Muslim Bumiputeras and the remaining 20 per cent for non-Bumiputeras in the state.

The PDS also resolved to leave the issue of the rotation of the Chief Minister's post to BN Chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a final decision.

During the February 1994 state election campaign, the Prime Minister pledged to rotate the Chief Minister's post among the political leaders of the three main communities in Sabah every two years if the BN won the election.

Dr Mahathir recently postponed the implementation of the rotation system until amendments were made to the Sabah Constitution to reduce the Chief Minister's powers.

The PDS congress supported the amendments to the constitution and the relevant laws to reduce the Chief Minister's powers and further streamline the state's administration.

The delegates taking part in the debate at the PDS congress wanted the amendments to be effected without abolishing the special privileges of Sabah and Sarawak in the Federation of Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

NT AAM