

8 JAN 1996

BN-post

SABAH BN HAS YET TO DECIDE ON ROTATION ISSUE

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) today discussed the issue relating to the rotation for the post of Chief Minister but an official said no decision has been reached.

Sabah Acting Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, who chaired the meeting, said all the eight representatives of the BN component parties had stated their views on the matter.

"We feel that at this stage we need not make a decision on the matter, what is important is that all the component parties have stated their views," he told reporters after the meeting.

Asked when the decision could be expected, he said; " We will see."

He said the meeting was cordial and each party had its own views on the matter.

The proposal to rotate the post among the three main communities-Muslim bumiputera, non-Muslim bumiputera and Chinese-- once in two years was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad before the state election in February last year.

Dr Mahathir had said that the proposal would be implemented as it was the BN's promise to the Sabah people, unless all the BN component parties in the state unanimously decided otherwise.

Young said today's meeting did not decide who supported the proposal and who did not. "we only seek the views of the component parties."

"No votes were taken," he added.

Yong, who is Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) president, said he was speaking on behalf of BN and not any component party.

He said before becoming the Acting BN chief, he was of the opinion that BN component parties should discuss the matter "and when I was made acting chief I call them for the meeting."

Dr Mahathir, at the end of his visit to Sabah last november, said a leader from SAPP would be appointed chief minister when the term of Datuk Salleh Said Keruak ended on March 17.

Meanwhile, state BN secretary Datuk Karim Bujang said the state BN would hold another meeting before March 17 for a final decision.

However, the date of the meeting had yet to be decided, he said.

"We will give time to the component parties to seek the views of their supreme councils before attending another meeting," he said.

The two-hour meeting was attended by representatives of Umno, SAPP, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS), Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), Parti Liberal Demokratik (LDP), Gerakan, Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu (Akar Bersatu) dan MCA. -- Bernama