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SABAH UMNO EXPECTED TO REAFFIRM STAND ON ROTATION ISSUE

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno is expected to reaffirm its opposition to the rotation of the Chief Minister's post at a meeting of its divisional heads here tomorrow.

Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Said Keruak on his return from Saudi Arabia last Sunday said he would call for the meeting to get the stand of each of the Umno divisional heads.

"It is going to be a short meeting where I will express my opinion on the issue and later the divisional heads can say whether they want the rotation or not," he said today.

Salleh, who is also Sabah Umno Liaison Committee Chairman, said although Umno Sabah had decided to oppose the rotation system and had made known its stand to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last year, it is still necessary to state its views once again.

Salleh, will have to step down on March 17, upon the expiry of the two-year term for a Muslim Bumiputera to head the government under the rotation of the Chief Minister's post as proposed by Dr Mahathir during the state election campaign in February, 1994.

The post to be rotated among the Muslim Bumiputeras, non-Muslim Bumiputeras and Chinese, is still an issue among the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

Several of the State BN parties had already expressed their wish that the matter be left to the Prime Minister for a final decision.-- BERNAMA