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Salleh - Umno

SABAH UMNO TO SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Umno will seek an appointment with Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to convey its views on the rotation of the Chief Minister's post among the state's major communities.

Chief Minister and Sabah Umno Liaison Committee Chief Datuk Salleh Said Keruak said today the committee at its meeting today unanimously decided to seek a meeting with Dr Mahathir to discuss the rotation issue and current political developments in the state.

"We are tied to the party's culture and the organisational system and hence its apt for us to convey our stand through party channels and not through the mass media," he told reporters after chairing the committee meeting here.

He also said the committee's secretary Datuk Yahya Hussin, who is also State Minister of Rural Development, would arrange the meeting with the Prime Minister.

"It will be better for us to convey our stand as a delegation to Dr Mahathir so that he can advise us on many matters," he said.

Salleh said Sabah Umno's decision to oppose the rotation of the Chief Minister's post among the three major communities in the state was in line with the wishes of Umno members throughout the state.

It was important for Sabah Umno to discuss the rotation issue with the Prime Minister and it was up to him to make a final decision, the Chief Minister said.

During the state election campaign in 1994, Dr Mahathir pledged that the BN would rotate the post of Chief Minister among the Muslim Bumiputeras, the Chinese community and Non-Muslim Bumiputeras.

On the call by BN Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat to Sabah Umno to appreciate the contributions made by BN component parties if it wanted to retain power, Salleh said, "It's also important for BN component parties to appreciate each other's contributions." -- BERNAMA