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Mohamed: Rotating post of CM won't affect Sabah BN

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - The rotation of the post of Sabah Chief Minister has not affected the effectiveness of the State administration and the strength of the State Barisan Nasional.

BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said BN was a disciplined party and its members would respect and accept whoever was chosen by the leadership as the Chief Minister under the rotation system.

Under the system, the chief ministership is rotated every two years among the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese.

He said Sabah BN would remain united and strong irrespective of who was appointed to replace Datuk Yong Teck Lee whose two-year term ends on May 28.

Clarifying reports quoting him saying that the next Chief Minister need not be a Kadazan, Mohamed said what he meant was as long as the person was a non-Muslim Bumiputera, he or she was eligible to be Chief Minister.

He said Kadazan, Dusun, Murut and Rungus were all categorised as non-Muslim Bumiputera.

Speaking after a meeting with State Umno leaders at a hotel, he said he believed the views of BN component parties in Sabah would be sought on the appointment of a non-Muslim Bumiputera as the next Chief Minister.

On the stand of Sabah Umno, he said it had given Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the mandate to decide on the matter.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup, who is Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah president, and Tourism and Environment Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, who is Parti Demokratik Sabah president, have been tipped as likely candidates to replace Yong.

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