

21/02/1998

New political culture in Sabah has emerged under the BN, says Yong

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - A new political culture based on the values of trust, commitment, discipline and progress have emerged in Sabah after the Barisan Nasional took over the helm of the State Government.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee said the BN power-sharing concept had brought about political stability to Sabah and caused the State to move steadily into the mainstream of economic, political and other fields of development.

He said the State was no longer working in isolation, but moving in tandem with the other States.

"In the past, promises were made without any intention of fulfilling them but now it is different; we say what we mean and we mean what we say," he said at the launch of the State BN convention today.

The opening of the day-long convention was officiated by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Yong, who is State BN chairman, said the Prime Minister's wisdom in proposing and implementing the rotation of the Chief Ministership had further enhanced the power-sharing concept.

He called on the people to welcome the next stage of the CM's post rotation.

"Let no one harbour any doubt that the wisdom of the BN, under the leadership of Dr Mahathir, in implementing the next stage of the rotation system will be fulfilled without fail."

Yong said the rotation of the Chief Minister's post in May 1996 had been a big sacrifice for Umno, the largest component and backbone of the State BN, and was something that should be appreciated by everyone.

The Prime Minister had, during the State election in March 1994, promised to rotate the Chief Minister's post among the Muslim Bumiputera, Chinese and non-Muslim Bumiputera if the BN won in the election.

He said the theme of the convention, "Justice for All", was most appropriate in view of the implementation of the next stage of the rotation system.

"The deeper meaning of the convention theme is that, whoever is the Chief Minister of Sabah has to ensure that there is justice for the people from all communities, regardless of ethnic origin," Yong said.

He advised the people not to allow sectoral, personal interests and ambitions to destroy the good that BN had helped build over the past four years.

(END)