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Mohamed-Kadazandusun

NEXT CM NEED NOT BE A KADAZANDUSUN, SAYS BN SEC-GEN

KOTA KINABALU, May 2 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the next Sabah Chief Minister need not necessarily be a Kadazandusun.

"I wish to make it clear that the next Chief Minister will be from the non-Muslim bumiputera group. It's not the question of him being a Kadazan, a Murut or a Dusun," he said of the potential successor to Datuk Yong Teck Lee who will end his term as Sabah Chief Minister on May 28.

Speaking to reporters after opening RTM Day here, he hoped Kadazandusun leaders who were widely speculated to succeed Yong would accept the choice made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the BN chairman.

Two persons frequently mentioned as possible successor to Yong are Deputy Chief Minister Yong Datuk Joseph Kurup who is Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) president and State Tourism and Environment Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok who is also Sabah Democratic Party (PDS) president.

"It's important within the context of the BN that any decision made by the coalition front must be well received," he said.

Mohamed, who is also Information Minister, said the BN would continue to maintain the policy of rotating the Chief Minister's post among the Muslim bumiputeras, Chinese and non-Muslim bumiputeras.

"This is the BN promise and the BN will not go back on its promise. This time around, the non-Muslim bumiputeras have the opportunity to hold the post," he said.

Dr Mahathir announced the rotating system in 1994 during the state elections.

The two-year term for the Muslim bumiputera group was shared by Tun Sakaran Dandai and Datuk Salleh Said Keruak. Then Yong succeeded Salleh as Chief Minister for the Chinese community.

Mohamed also denied allegations that the Bersekutu party led by former Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh had the blessings of Kuala Lumpur.

"We don't accept political parties into the BN that easily," he said, adding that it was no entry for Bersekutu and Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

-- BERNAMA

KG ABG