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Sabah should now focus on State election

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - With the cycle to rotate the Sabah Chief Minister's post among the three main communities completed, the Barisan Nasional should now focus its attention on winning the next State election.

Sabah Umno Liaison Committee chairman Datuk Osu Sukam said the fulfilment of the promise to rotate the Chief Minister's post should not be allowed to overshadow efforts to win the next State election.

"What is more important for the State BN Government is to provide an effective administration and not just fulfilling its promises, including the rotation of the Chief Minister's post," he told reporters on his arrival here today.

Osu, who is Land and Co-operative Development Minister, was commenting on the appointment of Tourism and Environment Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok as Sabah's new Chief Minister.

Dompok, who is Parti Demokratik Sabah president, replaces Datuk Yong Teck Lee whose two-year term expires on May 28.

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

He said the State government should also unite the people.

Osu hoped that all quarters in the State BN will give their full support to enable Dompok to discharge his duties effectively.

On Sabah Umno's opinion on the appointment of Dompok as Chief Minister, Osu said it had given Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad the full mandate to decide on the matter.

Asked about the possibility of a State Cabinet reshuffle, Osu said the new Chief Minister should decide that.

State Local Government and Housing Minister Datuk Lajim Ukin described Dompok as "the right man" to become the next Chief Minister.

He said this was because Dompok has vast experience in politics and administration.

"We need intelligent leaders like Dompok to lead us," he told a Press conference today.

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