

08 APR 1999

Parliament-Kit Siang

CARRY ON WITH ROTATION SYSTEM IN SABAH - DAP

KUALA LUMPUR, April 8 (Bernama) -- Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang wants the Barisan Nasional government in Sabah to keep to its promise and continue rotating the chief minister's post among the state's three main communities.

Lim said he was disturbed to read Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement recently that the BN, which introduced the rotation system after coming to power in 1994, was prepared to reconsider it if most Sabahans were against it.

"The BN should not discontinue with the rotation system as Sabahans will see this as a breach of promise and trust," he said when debating on the motion of thanks for the royal opening address at the Dewan Rakyat.

Lim, who is DAP secretary-general and MP for Tanjung, said the BN must also not victimise the Kadazandusuns for voting against the coalition in last month's state election.

The BN must instead think of a strategy to woo the community after suffering defeat in almost all the Kadazandusun-majority constituencies, despite emerging as the overall winner with 31 of the 48 seats, he added.

Lim also spoke on the current viral encephalitis outbreak, reiterating his call to Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng for a proper explanation about the virus without concealing facts.

"This viral outbreak is the worst in the country's history, having claimed 90 lives, destroyed the livelihood of 300,000 people in the pig breeding industry, brought down the RM2.5 billion pig farming and pork industries and related industries like livestock feeding... and undermined efforts to revive the country's economy," he said.

On the white paper on the status of the country's economy tabled on Tuesday, Lim said it did not present the true situation and instead only revealed domestic policy mistakes.

He said interest rates in Malaysia continued to be higher than in neighbouring countries while the foreign exchange rate was weak and money supply and loan growth were dropping since August last year.

The Dewan Rakyat sits again on Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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