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Osu-Rotation

OSU DEFENDS UMNO'S VIEWS ON ROTATION SYSTEM

KOTA KINABALU, May 19 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno chief Datuk Osu Sukam today defended the party's action in calling for the scrapping of the system of rotating the chief minister's post among three communities.

He said certain quarters had wanted the system to be discontinued if the Barisan Nasional (BN) lost in the recent state election but appeared to have changed their stand after losing the polls.

"They have their own say. Similarly, other BN component parties can voice their stand," he said when commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement last week that the rotation system would be continued as promised.

"The state Umno (too) has the right to voice its opinion and it is up to the (party national) leadership to determine if the system should be continued or not," said Osu, who was made the chief minister for a two-year term after the BN was returned to power in the election.

He expressed regret that when Sabah Umno voiced its opinion on the system, certain people felt it should not have made the statement.

These people, he said, accused the party of opposing the system because it controlled a majority of the seats in the state legislature.

The system, which provides for the chief minister's post to be rotated among the Muslim Bumiputeras, non-Muslim Bumiputeras and Chinese, was proposed by Dr Mahathir before the 1994 state polls.

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