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Dompok-Rotation

PDS TO STATE STAND ON ROTATION AT THE RIGHT TIME

KOTA KINABALU, May 8 (Bernama) -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) President Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today he will state the party's official stand on the system of rotation for the Sabah Chief Minister's post when the time comes.

The former Chief Minister said he did not see any urgency in issuing the party's official stand on the matter.

"There is still a lot of time to discuss this, and I don't think I am in any hurry to join the chorus of opinion in the press about it," he told reporters after opening the first General Meeting of Sabah Kadazandusun Educators Association (Pekadus) here.

The system to rotate the post every two years among the state's three major communities -- Muslim Bumiputeras, Chinese and non-Muslim Bumiputeras -- was introduced when the Barisan Nasional (BN) took over the state government in 1994.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who mooted the idea on the eve of the 1994 state election, said recently that the government was willing to review the system if that was what the Sabah people wanted.

Several leaders in Sabah, especially from the dominant Umno, have openly called for the system to be scrapped.

They contend that it is no longer tenable following the outcome of the March 12-13 Sabah state election which saw the defeat of all but two candidates from the Kadazandusun-based BN component parties. Dompok himself lost in a six-cornered tussle in Moyog.

Asked for his view on the debate on the issue, Dompok said: "I notice that those making statements in the press were only voicing their personal opinions, and not official party stands."

"So I think there is no need for me to contribute to the debate. If parties have made their stand, then I will give the official view from the party (PDS)," he said.

Asked whether he had been offered any government post, Dompok said he did not discuss the matter with the BN.

"For the time being, I am quite happy with where I am...I manage to do some of the things that I was not been able to do before. I am not in a hurry to take any official role," he said.

On whether he would accept appointments, he said: "I think I cannot turn down an offer to serve the people and community."

-- BERNAMA

JS YBY