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`Scrap rotation system for Sabah'

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THE rotation system for the Chief Minister of Sabah should be scrapped as it has caused uncertainty among people in the State.

Akbarkhan Abdul Rahman (BN-Libaran) said the people were worried that they would not have capable leaders in the future if the system was maintained.

Since Barisan Nasional took over administration of the State in 1994, it already has had five Chief Ministers.

"Are we ready to lose three more leaders in five years' time?" he asked during the debate on the Royal Address.

"Not only do the people lose out from the rotation system but it also created negative expectations from the people, be they businessmen, politicians or investors," Akbarkhan said.

Recently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was up to the people there to decide whether they would want to continue with the system.

Akbarkhan said the system would affect BN's programmes and rationale in bringing development.

He also said it would affect the confidence of local and foreign investors.

"I am afraid the continuation of the system would not be able to meet BN's goals in bringing development.

"It is obvious that the system has been continued to fulfill the promises made during the recent State election.

"But it is no longer a practical system in establishing a sound Government capable of development.

"If the system is as beneficial as claimed, it should be implemented nationwide," Akbarkhan said.

On the atrocities committed by the Serbs in Kosovo, he said the Organisation of Islamic Conference should offer assistance to the refugees.

"I am confident that OIC can formulate and implement steps to assist fellow Muslims who are being victimised," he added.

On Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad, Akbarkhan said that it was an institution which was the pride and joy of Malays, but had failed in its duties despite the assistance given by the Government.

With debts totalling RM7 billion, he said the bank was in dire straits, and the economic slowdown compounded the matter further.

"Assistance has been given time and again but it continues to flounder in its 35 years of existence.

"Even with the newly-established Bumiputera Commerce Bank Berhad, a merger between BBMB and Bank of Commerce, the future of Malays is not that assuring.

"Has the bank that symbolised the pride of Malays now been buried?" Akbarkhan asked.

However, in retrospect, he said the fate of the bank no longer mattered as far as the small- and medium-scale industry was concerned.

"The bank only serves an elite group. Has the bank taken any action against this elite group that has millions of bad debts or have they got away for free?" Akbarkhan asked.

Abdul Hadi Awang (Pas-Marang) argued for the need to change the present country's election style to a more transparent, fair and democratic

method.

"Elections are meant for the people to exercise their democratic rights based on their own matured judgment and thinking.

"It is supposed to be the time for the people to be educated in doing the right thing.

"However, come election time in this country, we see money politics in action with various projects being hastened and launched by leaders and politicians who depend on support from the corporate players."

He said the authorities also made no attempts to ensure that postal votes were carried out without giving rise to claims of irregularities.

Abdul Hadi claimed the local media did not provide fair coverage to enable the people to make their own decisions, and that the Government had used Radio Televisyen Malaysia as its propaganda tool.

He also wanted to know why the Parliament sessions were not broadcast live.

On Syariah law, Hadi said Muslims in the country should be given the rights to be tried under the Islamic law.

"Pas is still open and looks forward to discussing with the Federal Government the possibility of implementing hudud laws and to see how effective they can be."

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