

'No party against CM rotation system'

KOTA KINABALU, Fri: No party has opposed the rotation system for the Sabah chief minister's post, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there has been no opposition to the system since it was introduced by him in 1994 to enable the three main Sabah communities to share power and keep the peace and political stability.

This means the people have accepted the system in which there is a change of the chief minister once every two years, he said.

"Now, if I say the matter is not solved, people may protest. Again the

final decision lies with the people of Sabah (whether they want the post to continue being rotated)," he said.

Mahathir was asked if the system will be scrapped in the wake of uncertainty over its continuity following his remarks that he is leaving it to the Sabah people.

Current Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam's term ends next March.

Mahathir said he is prepared to accept whatever the decision of the people over the system.

At this stage, he is unable to tell who will be the new chief minister, he said.

On the mechanism to gauge whe-

ther the people want the system, he said basically, it is a BN affair and the nine components in Sabah can decide on it within the BN.

Sabah BN consists of Umno, United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (UPKO), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS), Liberal Democratic Party, Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), Akar Bersatu, MIC, Gerakan and MCA.

The system, which was implemented after the BN took over from Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), is openly supported by SAPP, UPKO and PBRS but most Umno leaders have argued against it.
