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Poor turnout at convention on rotation of Sabah CM's post

KOTA KINABALU, Sat. - A convention held today to discuss the rotation of the Sabah Chief Minister's post failed to attract many people.

At least 1,000 people were expected to attend the convention at the Sa'adah Hall in Wisma Muis, but only about 50 were present.

The Sabah Bumiputera Small Businesses and Traders Association organised the convention, themed The Rotation of the Chief Minister's Post: The Future of the People and the State.

Met by newsmen later, organising chairman and association committee member, Musli Oli, maintained that the convention had not failed.

"Although we did not receive the response we had hoped, the convention has not failed. It is just that the people of Sabah are not open-minded enough to discuss the issue in the open.

"They talk about it in coffee shops, but somehow they are not here today. We will continue with the convention and come up with a resolution which we will send to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," Musli said.

He claimed that the convention had been sabotaged, including by association members, who had initially agreed to support the event which was officiated by association president M.A. Rahman.

Musli said the idea to hold the convention was mooted by him and that Barisan Nasional component party leaders had given their blessings. The rotation of the Chief Minister's post was introduced in 1994 after the BN formed the State Government.

First to become Chief Minister under the system was Tun Sakaran Dandai followed by Datuk Salleh Tun Said.

Next to serve as Chief Minister representing the Chinese community was Datuk Yong Teck Lee, before Tan Sri Bernard Dompok representing the Kadazandusun community was appointed.

However, Dompok's two-year-term was cut short to make way for last year's State election. After the election Datuk Osu Sukam was appointed Chief Minister.

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