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Sabah Umno: Stop rotation system

Joniston Bangkuai

KOTA KINABALU, Tues. - Sabah Umno has made a unanimous decision that the rotation of the Chief Minister's post be scrapped.

The decision, made at the State Umno liaison committee meeting in Tawau last Sunday, was also supported by the Youth and Wanita movements and the party's State information bureau.

Sabah Umno information chief Datuk Karim Ghani said the decision would be conveyed to Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at an appropriate time.

"Sabah Umno made the stand following Dr Mahathir's statement that the rotation would continue unless the people of Sabah want it to be scrapped," Karim told a Press conference here today.

He said others who were not in favour of the rotation system should also make their stand known and convey their decisions to Dr Mahathir.

Karim said Sabah Umno felt the system should be discontinued as it had not brought any benefit to the State.

"There is no proof to show that the rotation has contributed to the development of the State," he added.

The system to rotate the Chief Ministership was introduced in April 1994 when the State BN took over the State administration after the Parti Bersatu Sabah Government collapsed following the defection of its Assemblymen to the BN.

Under the system, the Chief Minister's post is rotated every two years among the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and the Chinese.

The first to be appointed Chief Minister under the system was Tun Sakaran Dandai who was replaced by Datuk Seri Salleh Tun Said after he (Sakaran) was made Yang di-Pertua Negeri in December 1994.

After Salleh's term expired, Sabah Progressive Party president Datuk Yong Teck Lee took over the post in May 1996, followed by United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun-Murut president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok in May 1998.

Dompok was unable to complete his two-year term when he lost his Moyog seat in the State election in March last year.

It was then decided that Sabah Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam be appointed.

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