

Dissatisfaction over rotation being appeased

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KOTA KINABALU Wed — The feeling of dissatisfaction among the Kadazandusun community because of the changes in the rotation system is being appeased through better understanding and a greater sense of purpose

The United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) and Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) — the two main Kadazandusun based Barisan Nasional component members in the State — have begun explaining to the party grassroots the decision by the BN supreme council on the system

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had last week announced the appointment of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president Datuk Chong Kah Kiat as the new Chief Minister

The changes in the rotation system will see Umno the dominant partner in the State BN Government holding the Chief Ministership alternatively with a leader from the non Muslim Bumputera and Chinese community

The Kadazandusun community felt short changed by the modifications and

the appointment of Chong because they were led to believe that the next Chief Minister would come from their community

However there has been growing acceptance in the community over the decision and political leaders saw this turn of events as an opportunity to better unite the people and strengthen them

PBRS secretary general Louis Rampas said the people had begun to understand that the Prime Minister had taken into consideration the views of all State BN leaders before making his decision

He said the Kadazandusun community must overcome their differences and be united

We should see this as a starting point for us to show our sincerity to the Barisan Nasional Government Don't see it as a setback but something for us to renew our *semangat* (spirit) Rampas said

In pointing out that the result of the last State election in 1999 was not up to expectations he said Instead of asking Dr Mahathir why (the changes in the rotation system) the people should ask themselves

why

Asked if there was a need for the leaders of Upko and PBRS to meet in order to bring the Kadazandusun community together Louis said there was no need for that yet but there was no reason why such meetings could not be held

Meanwhile Upko information chief Wilfred Tangau said the reaction of the people was understandable but he believed that with better performance by the Chief Minister and the State Cabinet as a whole the people would be convinced that the decision was made in the interest of all communities

He believed that the Kadazandusun community should also see this as a challenge to show their support to the Barisan Nasional Government especially at the next election some three years away

We must vote to unite and not to disintegrate We should not have false hopes and we should strengthen ourselves to make better representation he said