

PM to decide on Sabah's rotation system

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KOTA KINABALU, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision on the rotation of the Sabah Chief Ministership would be in the best interests of the State even if it was not the most popular one. Chief Minister Datuk Seri Osu Sukam said today.

"The Prime Minister had all this while been making decisions for the benefit of the country as a whole.

"Even to the extent that he had been criticised by his own people because he takes into consideration the interests of everyone, instead of one particular community or race," he said after opening the State-level International Year of Volunteers 2001 seminar at Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort, near here.

Osu, who is Sabah Umno liaison committee chairman, said the nine Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties had not reached a consensus on whether the rotation should be continued or scrapped as they had agreed to give Dr Mahathir the mandate to decide.

The Prime Minister, he added, had given all BN component party presidents the opportunity to present their views during separate meetings last Wednesday and had also requested that these views be put in writing and submitted to him.

"We do not expect all parties to have the same views but whatever it is, it is up to the Prime Minister to make a decision based on what we all had to say," he said.

Osu said Dr Mahathir would make a de-

cision that would be accepted and abided by the Sabah BN.

When asked for his reaction to Dr Mahathir's recent comment that the rotation system created "lame duck" chief ministers, Osu said: "It is better for me not to say anything over the matter because I am the present Chief Minister and whatever I say, people will see in a different light."

Osu said the Prime Minister had his reasons and must have analysed the situation before making the statement.

Dr Mahathir is expected to decide on the rotation system soon because Osu's two-year tenure as the Chief Minister will expire in the middle of next month.