

# Dr M to meet leaders before deciding on rotation system

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KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will meet state Barisan Nasional component leaders "one by one" before he decides on the two-year rotation of the chief minister's post among the three major communities in Sabah.

Giving no hints of whether he plans to continue or scrap the rotation system, the Prime Minister said that he would decide on the matter before Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam's term ends next month.

"I have only met the Sabah

Umno leaders. I also intend to meet the Barisan component party leaders. I will be inviting them to Kuala Lumpur.

"I will meet them one by one to hear their views," he said at the end of a two-day visit to Sabah during which some politicians had expected a hint as to whether the rotation would go on and whether a Chinese or Kadazandusun would be Osu's successor.

Dr Mahathir said he was not facing any problem in deciding on the rotation system as Sabah Barisan was mature.

"By and large Barisan in Sabah is a strong organisation. I am sure it places priority on common interest, I don't think they will do something which could affect their interest," he said.

Asked if the next chief minister would be from the Kadazandusun or Chinese community, he replied; "He will be a Malaysian."

On Sabah's Umno stand on the rotation system, Dr Mahathir said: "That's a secret, that is something I can't reveal just yet."