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Dr M meets Sabah BN leaders over CM's post

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - Leaders of Sabah-based Barisan Nasional component parties today held separate meetings with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office to give their views on the rotation system of the Chief Minister's post.

The meetings which began in the afternoon after the weekly Cabinet meeting stretched over four hours with Sabah Chief Minister and State Umno chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam the last to meet the Prime Minister.

The leaders and their parties are Tan Sri Bernard Dompok of the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko), Tan Sri Joseph Kurup of Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRs), Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar), Datuk Chong Kah Kiat of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Datuk Yong Kee Teck of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP).

Osu's two-year term under the system to rotate the post of the Chief Minister among the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and the Chinese ends on March 13.

Dr Mahathir had said he would make an announcement on the rotation system when the time comes for Osu to relinquish the post.

Speaking to reporters, Osu, who is Sabah BN chief, said the State Umno had given full mandate to Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, to make a decision.

Asked if this would be the final meeting, Osu said: "I don't know. That is the prerogative of the Prime Minister."

On whether a consensus had been reached on the matter, he said the question should be left to the Prime Minister.

Asked when Dr Mahathir was expected to make an announcement, he said: "You have to ask the Prime Minister."

Osu said he and Dr Mahathir talked about administrative matters and also Dr Mahathir's recent visit to Sabah.

The other leaders did not speak to reporters at the entrance of the Prime Minister's Department.

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