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New rotation system an 'improved version'

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The new rotation system for the post of Sabah Chief Minister is an "improved version", Barisan Nasional secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said there was a new political equation in Sabah and that the interests of the people of Sabah had to be taken into account.

"We have to look at the new political equation in Sabah, at the interests of the people of Sabah who have now come out strongly in support of the BN because they feel Sabah and its people can benefit very much from the BN.

"We also notice that those opposed to the BN in the past today realise they have made mistakes, especially the Kadazans. They have now joined component parties of BN like Upko, PBRs and some have joined Umno," Mohamed said at the Putra World Trade Centre here after a BN supreme council meeting.

He said it had been "rather difficult" for Dr Mahathir to come up with a solution on the question of the rotation system.

Mohamed said the system was a promise made in the BN election manifesto in the last election.

"Parties like Umno that have expressed their feelings about the rotation system and that it should be abolished because they feel it is insufficient for a Chief Minister to hold the position for two years and that could be a lame-duck situation as mentioned by so many people."

He said other parties had expressed the need to continue with the rotation system.

"Then again the political situation in Sabah has changed tremendously now. The acceptance of the BN by the people of Sabah has increased tremendously and this was proven in the last election where BN won with more than two-thirds majority."

Mohamed said after looking at all aspects of the problem, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had come up with an "improved version" of the rotation system.

"He openly discussed this with the Sabah liaison committee members for more than an hour. He also met the BN Sabah committee to support this new version of rotation."

(END)