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Kurup-Rotation

NO PROBLEM IF CM ROTATION CONTINUES, SAYS KURUP

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 22 (Bernama) -- Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said today there would be no problem in the transition of power among Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties if the rotation system for the Sabah chief minister's post was continued.

"If the rotation system is continued and if all BN component parties agreed, I think there'll be no problem in the transition of power," he told reporters when met at the Hari Raya open house of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia here.

Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here yesterday that he was still thinking whether to retain the rotation system introduced by the ruling coalition when it came to power in Sabah in 1994.

Kurup, however, said his party would abide by whatever decision made by Dr Mahathir.

Asked whether the rotation system would be continued, he said it was up to Dr Mahathir to decide.

"If the system continues...whoever is chosen for the CM's post, we should accept as was the practice before.

"What's important is all the BN component parties must cooperate and focus their attention to uplift the living standard of the people and what has been planned by the previous chief minister must be continued," he said.

Pandikar, who is also Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) president, said the rotation issue could be resolved amicably through negotiations among BN component parties.

Sabah BN secretary Datuk Karim Bujang said he had not receive any instruction to call for a state BN meeting to discuss the issue.

The rotation system paves the way for leaders of the three major communities in Sabah -- Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese -- to become Chief Minister for two years on a rotation basis.

However, several groups in Sabah have recently voiced their opinion that the time has come for the system to be reviewed with a view to evaluate whether it should be retained or scrapped.

The two-year term of the present Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam, who represents Muslim-Bumiputeras, ends in March.

-- BERNAMA

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