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Mahathir-Rotation

PM STILL THINKING WHETHER TO RETAIN ROTATION SYSTEM

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was still thinking whether to retain the rotation system for the post of Sabah Chief Minister.

"I haven't made up my mind," he told reporters during a brief stopover here enroute to Kuala Lumpur after visiting Osaka, Japan.

When asked whether the system would be continued, he said: "So far, the system is still being implemented".

On the possibility of a non-Muslim Bumiputera representative being given an opportunity to hold the Chief Minister's post if the system is continued, Dr Mahathir said: "Yes...yes (but) if we talk (everything about it now), there's nothing (that needs to be told later)."

The rotation system for the post of Chief Minister had been implemented since the Barisan Nasional (BN) took over the administration of the state government in March 1994.

The system is to enable leaders of the three main ethnic communities -- Muslim Bumiputera, Chinese and non-Muslim Bumiputera -- to be appointed Chief Minister on a rotation basis, each for a two-year term.

However, several quarters in Sabah lately felt that the time had come for the system to be reviewed to evaluate whether it should be retained or discontinued.

The post of Chief Minister is now being held by Datuk Osu Sukam who represents the Muslim Bumiputeras and if the system is continued, his term would end in about two months from now.

When pressed further on how the system would be continued as the tenure of the current Chief Minister would end soon, Dr Mahathir said: "We are thinking (about it)...(you) can hear my brain."

-- BERNAMA

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