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Unity

STATE BN LEADERS WANT STABILITY AND UNITY MAINTAINED, SAYS CHONG

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- State Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders expressed their views on the need to maintain stability and unity in the state at their meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday to discuss the issue of the rotation of the chief ministership.

Tourism Development, Environment, Science and Technology Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said that each of the leaders was of the opinion that instability which occurred in neighbouring countries proved that the two factors must be maintained.

Asked if he was referring to the frequent changes in leadership in the neighbouring countries, he said: "There has to be stability...whether you want to interpret it as a continuation of leadership, I'll leave it to you".

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Kinabalu Art Gallery, here, today.

Chong, who is president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), was one of the five Sabah BN component party leaders who met the prime minister.

Under the system introduced in 1994, a Muslim Bumiputera, a non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese take turns to be chief minister, each holding the post for about two years.

The term for Datuk Osu Sukam as chief minister, who represented the Muslim Bumiputera, expires on March 18.

Chong said state BN leaders had given full mandate to the prime minister to decide on the rotation issue.

"What is important is that we must try to settle this quickly so that we can move ahead," he said.

He said stability could only be achieved by ensuring that all component parties had an effective role to play in the state.

-- BERNAMA

HAK RM