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Dompok-Rotation

TWO-YEAR CM TERM IS NOT A STUMBLING BLOCK FOR DEVELOPMENT- DOMPOK

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- The rotation system for the Sabah Chief Minister's post is not a stumbling block to development in the state, said a Barisan Nasional (BN) component party president here today.

Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, the president of the United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun and Murut Organisation (UPKO), said the rotation system allowed all the communities in Sabah to have a stake in the state government.

"Each community has an opportunity to lead the Government and the two-year term of the Chief Minister is not a stumbling block to bring progress to the state," he told reporters after opening a dialogue and meet the leaders session here.

"I don't see the two-year period as a stumbling block but it will be more desirable for the Chief Minister to have a longer period to ensure policies are carried out properly and thoroughly," he said.

Dompok said this when commenting on a Sabah student representative from an institution of higher learning, who during the dialogue session said that the two-year period was too short to bring progress to the state.

Dompok said that as far as he was concerned, the two-year rotation system had brought changes to Sabah.

To withdraw the system, one had to examine whether it had met its objective, he added.

He said when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, as chairman of BN, suggested the rotation system, he (Dr Mahathir) had done it for a reason that was to get the people of Sabah to work together.

The rotation system was implemented in 1994 when the BN came to power in the state. It provided for a Muslim Bumiputera, Chinese and a non-Muslim Bumiputera to take turns every two years to lead the state government.

However, Dr Mahathir announced a new 2:1:1 formula for the system this year whereby a Muslim Bumiputera would get back the post after the present Datuk Chong Kah Kiat had completed his term and only then the post would go to a non-Muslim Bumiputera, assuming the BN would continue to win the state election.

Chong, the president of the Liberal Democratic Party, represents the Chinese community.

On his party's stand, Dompok said: "As far as we are concerned we want the best for Sabah. At the moment, the BN feels the rotation should go on and we abide by the BN manifesto."

He also admitted that they could be other variations and other ways of looking into the system.

He said there were proposals from the people such as to formalise a power-sharing system for posts among competing parties.

"Like important posts in the state being so assigned to reflect the communities in Sabah. The present rotation system has been modified and we are hoping to see whether this is the best way of doing it," he added.

-- BERNAMA

DC HS AAM