

15 FEB 2001

Dompok-Rotation

UPKO TO SUBMIT DETAILED REPORT ON SABAH CM ROTATION SYSTEM

IPOH, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- The United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) will submit a report to the Prime Minister next week, detailing the party's view on the rotation system for the Sabah's Chief Minister post, its President Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today.

He said despite verbally conveying the party's view on the matter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, yesterday at his office, a written report will also be submitted.

"We (UPKO) are looking at a solution, the pros and cons (of the rotation system)," Dompok told reporters here after launching a report on "Malaysia's Economic Indicators-Leading, Coincident and Lagging Indices For November 2000", here.

He said party members were keen to see the state Barisan Nasional solve the problems in Sabah as envisaged by the Prime Minister who initiated the rotation system in March 1994 for the post of Chief Minister.

Dompok, who is also the minister in the Prime Minister's department, said the system was introduced to solve the state's problems, but now the party wants to see if Sabah's problems can be resolved if the rotation system for the CM's post is abolished.

On the views conveyed yesterday to the Prime Minister, he said: "I am not in a position to tell...this is something we like the PM to consider before we can discuss it in the press."

Leaders of the Sabah Barisan Nasional component parties met Dr Mahathir individually at his office to convey their views on the rotation system.

Besides Dompok, Dr Mahathir also met with Sabah Progressive Party President Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah President Tan Sri Joseph Kurup, Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Sabah President Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia, Liberal Democratic Party President Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and Sabah Chief Minister, Datuk Osu Su who is also Sabah Umno Liaison Chief.

Osu's two-year term under the rotation system expires on March 18, 2001.

The rotation system proposed by Dr Mahathir during the 1994 state election campaign enables the post of chief minister to be rotated among the Muslim bumiputera, non-Muslim bumiputera and the Chinese community.

The unique system is to enable the leaders of the three major communities in Sabah to head the government for a two-year term each.

-- BERNAMA

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