

16 MAR 2001

Chong (Reaction)

VARIOUS GROUPS WELCOME CHONG'S APPOINTMENT AS CM

KOTA KINABALU, March 16 (Bernama) -- Various groups in Sabah today welcomed the appointment of Datuk Chong Kah Kiat as the new Sabah Chief Minister succeeding Datuk Osu Sukam.

Osu has completed his two-year term under the system of rotation of the Sabah Chief Minister's post for that period among Muslim Bumiputeras, non-Muslim Bumiputeras and the Chinese community.

Congratulating Chong, they expressed confidence that he would get all the support to enable him to discharge his new duties.

Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) Deputy President Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan said, "We welcome the decision made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to appoint Datuk Chong Kah Kiat as the new Sabah Chief Minister."

"We congratulate him on his appointment and all of us will extend our full cooperation to him... ..it is a good choice, I am sure he will be a good Chief Minister," he said in a statement.

Several Sabah Umno leaders also expressed support for the new state government leadership.

Sabah Umno Youth Chief Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan said the movement had conveyed its views to the Prime Minister on the rotation system and agreed to his decision.

"The decision should be accepted calmly. We expect cooperation from the other component parties for this is a big sacrifice which Umno is making in the interest of unity and political stability in Sabah," he said.

Sabah Wanita Umno Chief Datuk Dayang Mahani Tun Pengiran Ahmad Raffae said Sabah Umno should focus on efforts to develop the state.

Dayang Mahani said although Sabah Umno's aspiration to have the rotation system abolished did not materialise, still the party had the advantage as the representative of Muslim Bumiputeras would serve for two terms under every round of the rotation system.

"The new formula gives the advantage to Umno directly or indirectly...we have to abide by the decision in the interest of the party's future and the Barisan Nasional," she added.

-- BERNAMA

JS AAM