

Scrap rotation and get on with work, says LDP

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KOTA KINABALU: A Sabah Barisan Nasional component, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is reiterating its stand for the scrapping of the rotation of the chief minister's post.

Voicing his party's stand, LDP president Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said: "It's time to stand up and say get rid of all these talk of rotation. Let's get on with our work of developing Sabah."

He said the system of rotating the post among Sabah's Muslim bumiputras, Chinese and non-Muslim bumiputras should be stopped without attaching conditions from among the state Barisan's nine components.

"These so-called conditions should not arise. If you support

something, then you should do so without attaching any conditions," said Chong, the state Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister after launching a Malaysian and Korean joint venture company producing handicraft here yesterday.

He said there was also no necessity for Sabah Barisan to work out a new power-sharing formula as an alternative to the rotation system since the existing arrangements within the ruling coalition were "good enough."

"Although we are small party, we were given a free hand by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and that has continued with his suc-

cessor Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi. There are no constraints in speaking up at (Barisan meetings)," said Chong whose party has two members in the 48-seat state assembly.

Chong was one of the rotated chief ministers from 2001 until last March.

Asked whether this meant that LDP would be agreeable if Umno were to continue to hold onto the chief minister's post, Chong said: "I think they can hold it very safely. There are no problems as far as I am concerned."

He said LDP would also be receptive to any meeting called by Sabah Umno to discuss the future of the rotation system.