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Abdullah-Rotation

BN SABAH TO DECIDE THE FUTURE OF ROTATION SYSTEM, SAYS ABDULLAH

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership has yet to decide on whether to go on or otherwise with the rotation system in Sabah.

Abdullah, who is the national BN chairman, said he would not interfere in the matter but would leave it to the state BN leaders to reach a consensus.

"I don't want to interfere with that...it's up to them. If they agree, we will go with it.

"We don't want to quarrel about it. We don't want it to divide us...we don't want to quarrel because if we are divided we will be weak and it's the BN which will suffer," he told reporters after attending the breaking of fast with Sabah Umno and state BN leaders, here tonight.

On the whether the BN would include any reference to the system in the BN's manifesto in the coming state election as in the past, Abdullah said: "Just wait...the manifesto, it's still a long way."

The unique system, mooted by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was practised in Sabah since the BN formed the state government in March 1994.

It was to give the opportunity to leaders of the three major communities in Sabah -- the Muslim Bumiputera, non-Muslim Bumiputera and the Chinese -- to lead the state on a two-year rotational basis.

The system however underwent a slight modification in March 2001 to give prominence to Umno.

Under the modified system, a leader from the party would take over the chief minister's post after the term of a particular community ends.

The system has so far seen the appointment of seven chief ministers -- Tun Sakaran Dandai, Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak, Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Datuk Osu Sukam, Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and Datuk Seri Musa Aman, who is the present Chief Minister.

-- BERNAMA

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