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Umno-Rotation

NOT TIME YET TO DISCUSS ROTATION, SAYS SABAH UMNO CHIEF

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno liaison chairman Datuk Musa Aman said today that it is not yet time for the state Umno to hold meetings to discuss issues pertaining to the system of rotation of the Sabah chief minister's post.

"There are no specific meetings planned to discuss the issue...it is not time yet, not necessary at the moment," he said when asked if the state Umno would meet to deliberate on the issue which has taken centre stage in the state's political scene.

Musa, who is Sabah Finance Minister, however said that he concurred with the view expressed recently by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the matter.

Abdullah was quoted as saying that the system would remain until all parties involved could come up with a better system of power-sharing.

"If we want to change the system, we'll have to come up with a suggestion for a new one and get the views from all those involved. We have to discuss it at length before making the change. The new system, too, has to be better than the present one," Abdullah was reported as saying in a national daily.

Musa said: "I agree with the Deputy Prime Minister's view...like he said, if there is a suggestion for a new one from the Barisan Nasional component parties, we'll discuss it."

What was important, he said, was that whatever decision taken on the matter, it was for the betterment of the people and the state.

Under the system, a leader from Sabah Umno succeeds the present chief minister, Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, when his term expires end of March, this year.

Earlier, Musa chaired the meeting of the main organising committee for the ground-breaking ceremony of the Sabah Umno building, by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Musa said that preparation for the ceremony was progressing smoothly but the actual date of the event would be determined later.

-- BERNAMA

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