

09 DEC 2003

Musa-Rotation

SABAH UMNO MAKES DECISION ON CM ROTATION - MUSA

KOTA KINABALU, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Umno liaison Committee has made a decision on its stand over the rotation of the Chief Minister's post, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman said today.

Musa, who is also Sabah Umno Chief, said all the Umno division pro tem chairmen gave their views to him during the State Umno meeting today which discussed the controversial issue at length.

Declining to divulge details of the decision at a media conference after chairing the meeting, Musa said he would meet every Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leader in Sabah to explain the State Umno's stand on the future of the rotation system.

Asked when he would meet the component party leaders, he said: "I will meet them at the right time. I'll meet the component party leaders individually."

The rotation system was introduced by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in March 1994 when the BN formed the state government in Sabah.

It provides for leaders of the three major communities in Sabah -- Muslim Bumiputeras, Chinese and non-Muslim Bumiputeras -- to be chief minister for two years under a rotation system.

The system saw slight adjustment in March 2001 whereby an Umno leader will take over as chief minister when the two-year chief ministership of an ethnic group ends.

So far, Sabah has seen seven chief ministers under the rotation system. They are Tun Sakaran Dandai, Datuk Seri Salleh Said Keruak, Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Datuk Seri Osu Sukam, Datuk Chong Kah Kiat and Musa.

-- BERNAMA

MK TOM