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SABAH UMNO LEAVES IT TO LEADERSHIP TO DECIDE ON CM POST

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno will leave it to the top party leadership to decide on the next chief minister to succeed Datuk Chong Kah Kiat whose term of service ends in March.

State Umno Liaison Chief Datuk Musa Aman said the Sabah Umno would accept whatever decision made by the top leadership.

"We will accept anyone selected. We will abide by the decision of the top party leadership (Umno president and also Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad)," he said when asked on the Umno candidate for the post of chief minister when attending the Chinese New Year gathering organised by the Kota Kinabalu Journalists Association, here today.

Under the rotation system for the post of chief minister in Sabah, the Umno leader will hold the post for four years or two terms, while a non-Muslim Bumiputera and Chinese leader will each be appointed for one term or two years.

Under the power sharing system, Chong, who ends his term as chief minister at the end of March, will hand over the post to the Umno leader.

On another issue, Musa said he fully agreed with Dr Mahathir's view that Umno would disintegrate if party leaders and members placed self-interest above that of the party.

"We in Sabah have reminded Umno leaders and members right from the start not to think of self-interest and that the post given to us is not a privilege, on the contrary, it's a responsibility to carry out the trust given," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MK RON AO