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Abdullah willing to review system for CM's post

PENANG, Fri. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi tonight said he was willing to review the rotation system for the Sabah Chief Minister's post when he takes over as Prime Minister from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad if the need arose.

He said if the system was causing problems and the people wished to revert to the old system, he would consider doing so.

"The present system was agreed to by all the Sabah BN component parties. If there is a need to improve the system, we will find alternatives," he said during a question-and-answer session with university students at a dinner held in conjunction with the undergraduate congress, organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia.

The acting Prime Minister was responding to a question from a Universiti Sabah Malaysia student, who raised a concern that the present rotation system was causing dissatisfaction among the people.

Abdullah said he was prepared to discuss the present system should the people of Sabah wish so. "I am open minded.

"We will continue to find ways to improve the system even if we have to revert to the old system of appointing the chief minister."

Earlier, he told students they could vary in their views but their ultimate goal should be to ensure Malaysia was a country respected by other nations.