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Chong: Some trying to make issue of system

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat said today certain people are trying to turn the rotation system of the Chief Minister's post into an issue.

He said the statement by Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday should put an end to the issue.

"This (rotation) is a simple and straightforward thing but certain people want to play it up," he said after the Hari Raya Aidiladha open house of Yang di-Pertua Negeri Datuk Seri Ahmad Shah Abdullah at Istana Negeri.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday a leader from Umno would take over from Chong when his two-year term as Chief Minister expires on March 27.

The Prime Minister also said it was untrue that Chong had asked for his term to be extended.

Chong confirmed that he had told Dr Mahathir about his wish to go on leave for a month prior to the expiry of his term and that he was now awaiting for approval.

He said it was up to Dr Mahathir as BN chairman to decide who should be acting chief minister when he goes on leave.