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Chong: Support next Chief Minister to ensure progress

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat today called on civil servants to support Sabah Umno liaison committee head Datuk Musa Aman who has been named the next Chief Minister under the rotation system.

"I urge heads of departments and administrators to extend their fullest co-operation and support to Musa when he takes over as Chief Minister.

"This is important because we need to be in a position that would enable us to move in the economic front. Ensure that my successor will have the same support I had," he said.

Chong's term as Chief Minister will expire on March 27.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced Musa's appointment as Sabah's seventh Chief Minister under the rotation system introduced in 1994.

Speaking at the launch of a book entitled Reinventing Sabah: Global Challenges and Policy Responses at Menara Tun Mustapha, near here, Chong said in order to transform the economy, there was a need to continue addressing concerns such as the presence of illegal immigrants.

Other concerns Chong touched on were illegal logging and "fish bombing," which through measures taken to overcome the problems had yielded encouraging results.

"The State Government also took steps to instil the 'thrift culture' in its administration. Among measures taken were to curtail out-of-state travel by Cabinet members and review of Government contracts with the private sector.

"Various efforts have also been taken to help transform the State's economy from production-driven to knowledge-intensive."

On the new book published by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sabah, Chong said it would enable readers to have a better understanding of policies and initiatives of the Government.