

No rotation for CM post

KUANTAN: There will not be any rotation among Barisan Nasional parties for the post of chief minister in Penang.

"There is no change in the policy," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said, putting an end to speculation arising from resolutions taken by some Umno Youth divisions in that state.

The current chief minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon succeeded Tun Lim Chong Eu as Penang chief minister in 1990. Both are from the Gerakan component party of Barisan.

In recent weeks, "several

Umno Youth divisions in the state had called for the post to be rotated among Barisan component parties.

Speaking to reporters in Permatang Pak Mahat near here, where he was visiting a low-cost housing project, Abdullah issued the one-liner as a response to the issue. He refused to say more on the matter.

"There is no change in the policy up to now," he said, brushing aside questions about several Umno members quitting the party over the matter.

He, however, added: "Those who quit did it for personal rea-

sons and this has nothing to do with the party."

In Kepala Batas, the MCA said it did not see a need to rotate the Penang chief minister's post because of the stable political situation in the state.

"There is no need to rotate the post in Penang because there is strong cooperation among the Barisan component parties in the state," said deputy president Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy.

"Their working relationship is satisfactory. The state's political situation is also quite stable," he told reporters after vis-

iting the new SJK (C) Sin Chung building here yesterday.

Earlier, Chan presented RM25,000 to the school for the purchase of computer software.

He said the school's new RM1.5mil building project in Permatang Sintok would be completed next month.

"The MCA has so far raised RM200,000 for the school building project," he said.

In Kota Baru, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik reminded party members to understand the nation's social contract and uphold its principles.

"We have to look back at the history of the Barisan when the coalition was formed not just for one race but for all Malaysians," he said after opening the annual Kelantan Gerakan delegates conference.

"The social contract is about the willingness to share power and remain sensitive to touchy issues."

Dr Lim also promised not to openly criticise the party leadership when he retires next year.

"If there are problems, I will not hesitate to criticise, but I will not do it openly."