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Salleh-Laws
FIVE LAWS IN SABAH TO BE AMENDED

KOTA KINABALU, April 10 (Bernama) -- The Sabah state constitution will be left intact but amendments will be made to five state laws to curb the powers of the Chief Minister.

Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Salleh Said Keruak said today the proposed amendments, which basically provide for certain powers of the Chief Minister to be handed over to the state cabinet, will be tabled at the April 25-26 State Legislative Assembly meeting.

"The proposal to amend the powers of the Chief Minister does not necessarily mean that the state constitution must be amended," he told reporters after the weekly state cabinet meeting here.

The laws to be amended are the Forestry Enactment 1968, Land Ordinance (Chapter 68), Mining Ordinance 1960 and Sabah Foundation Enactment. With the amendments, a consequential law, the Delegation of Powers Enactment 1963, will also be amended.

Salleh said that with the proposed amendment to the Sabah Foundation Enactment, the Chief Minister would no longer be automatically appointed chairman of its Board of Trustees.

At present, the Chief Minister is automatically chairman of the Sabah Foundation Board of Trustees, and he is also empowered to appoint eight other members of the board.

Under the proposed amendments, the other board members will be appointed by the Yang Dipertua Negeri at the recommendation of the state cabinet, he added.

Salleh said he briefed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the proposed amendments last week.

"Basically, the amendments to the state laws does not depart from the suggestions made by the Prime Minister regarding the powers of the Sabah Chief Minister," he added.

Salleh said the state government will also review the position of the same people being appointed chairman and directors of several of its agencies.

"We have to review this because some of the problems involve the state constitution where the chairman of an agency is required by law to also head subsidiaries under the agency or ministry," he added.

He said there were situations where the government had to appoint its officers as directors of several of its agencies because of their expertise in related fields.

There were also cases where the government had to appoint them in certain companies in which the government held equity, he added.

Salleh said, however, as a matter of policy, the government agreed that the number of people holding posts as chairman and directors in too many of its companies and agencies should be reduced. -- BERNAMA

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