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Gerakan-Kong

GERAKAN TO DECIDE ON KONG'S FATE TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10 (Bernama) -- Gerakan will decide tomorrow on suspended Sabah Gerakan pro-tem chairman Datuk Kong Hong Ming's position in the party but party sources said he is expected to be expelled.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said today the party Central Committee (CC) will meet tomorrow at the party headquarters to decide Kong's fate.

"There will be only one decision," he told reporters after opening a two-day motivation seminar organised by Gerakan Youth at the party headquarters.

The Gerakan Central Working Committee (CWC), the party's highest decision-making body, had on July 14 suspended Kong's party membership for abstaining in the vote on an amendment to the Sabah Forest Enactment in the Sabah State Assembly on June 17.

He was also absent during the vote on four other bills which together were aimed at limiting the powers of the Chief Minister.

The CWC also issued Kong with a show-cause letter as to why he should not be expelled from the party.

Kong, who is the assemblyman for Kudat and former Sabah Minister of Social Services, last Monday announced that Gerakan Sabah pro-tem deputy chairman Dr Chong Eng Leong has taken over his duties as the state chief.

Dr Lim declined to say whether Kong, who is also a Gerakan national vice-president, would be expelled from the party but repeatedly said that there would only be "one decision" on Kong.

Kong has been criticised by leaders of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties for not supporting the amendments. Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that Kong should change his stand on the amendments or resign from the party.

The reactions from the BN leaders prompted Kong to offer to resign and last Monday he was quoted as saying that he would leave his fate to the CC and was ready to face whatever action.

Nominated Sabah assemblyman Jahid Jahim of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu was sacked by his party for voting against the Forest Enactment Bill. -- BERNAMA

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