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Gerakan-Sabah

GERAKAN TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON KONG

KLUANG, July 1 (Bernama) -- Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik will make an announcement soon regarding the position of its Sabah party chief Datuk Kong Hong Ming, who had abstained from voting on an amendment bill in the Sabah State Assembly on June 17.

"I need a bit more time to think before making the announcement," Dr Lim told reporters after launching a deer farming project and the Kluang Porim Station Open Day here.

Dr Lim, who is Primary Industries Minister, said he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last Saturday to explain the matter.

Dr Lim said Dr Mahathir told him of the need to uphold Barisan Nasional (BN) principles and discipline for the sake of protecting BN's and Gerakan's integrity.

The national Gerakan supported the amendments and the problem now was to convince Sabah Gerakan and Kong to do the same, he said.

Dr Lim said he would be meeting Kong, who is Gerakan national vice-president, and the Sabah Gerakan leadership over the issue.

Kong, who is Kudat assemblyman, was one of two BN members who did not support the Forest Enactment (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the assembly to transfer some of the Chief Minister's powers to the State Cabinet.

The Gerakan central committee had earlier said it regretted Kong's decision to abstain on the bill but that no action would be taken against him.

The central committee's stance was criticised by several leaders of BN component parties.

Jahid Jahim, Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu's nominated assemblyman, was sacked by his party for opposing the bill. -- BERNAMA

MKO YBY