

06 OCT 1996

Moggie-Merger

PBDS TO SEE ALL THINGS DEVELOP ON SNAP MERGER PROPOSAL

KUCHING, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president Datuk Leo Moggie said today that his party has not made any formal contacts with Sarawak National Party (Snap) regarding a proposal to merge the two parties.

He said both sides should not get too excited over the proposal which was made by Snap president Datuk Amar James Wong recently.

The suggestion is not that simple to be implemented, Moggie said during a friendly football match organised by the PBDS women's wing here.

However, he said, the suggestion was very interesting and "we will just see how things develop".

The PBDS was formed in the early 1980s by a breakaway group from Snap. Both parties are components of the state Barisan Nasional.

Meanwhile, PBDS vice president and state Tourism Minister Datuk Dr James Masing said all residents of Belaga district are qualified to apply for financial aid for educational and training needs from the Bakun Trust Fund beginning early next year.

Dr Masing, who is the chairman of the fund's committee, said those qualified include children of Belaga residents now working elsewhere.

This was decided at the committee's first meeting on Sept 3.

The Bakun Trust Fund was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Sept 7 with the intention of providing scholarship and other training for the people in Belaga where the RM13.6 billion Bakun hydroelectric dam project is sited.

The committee has received RM5 million each from the state and federal governments and another RM5 million will be injected by Bakun Hydro-Electric Corporation Sdn Bhd, the operating company for the project. The fund is managed by Sarawak Foundation. -- BERNAMA

AHM CTL