

07 JUL 1996

Mohamed-Gerakan

STAY OR LEAVE BN, SABAH GERAKAN TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Gerakan should decide whether to remain as a component party of the state Barisan Nasional (BN) or to leave if it cannot accept the struggles of the coalition, BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said he was very disappointed with the attitude of Sabah Gerakan chief Datuk Kong Hong Ming for not supporting the recent amendments to five Sabah laws at the State Legislative Assembly.

"If they (Sabah Gerakan) cannot subscribe to the struggles of the state BN, it's up to them whether to stay or leave BN," he told reporters after attending the ministry's family day at Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, here.

Kong, who is Kudat assemblyman, was one of two BN assemblymen who abstained from voting for the Sabah Forestry Enactment (Amendment) Bill which was passed by the assembly on June 17.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said on Friday that Kong should resign from the party or change his stand.

Last Tuesday Kong offered to resign as Sabah Gerakan chairman but said he would retain his post as the party's vice-president.

Mohamed said what was important in Sabah was political stability which was lacking in the state for so long.

In view of the importance of political stability for the state's development, he warned Sabah Gerakan not to jeopardise the stability which the BN was striving to create in the state.

He said BN would take follow-up action if Kong continued to hang on to his post as the coalition viewed Kong's stand as a serious development.

"In BN's context, what Kong did was unacceptable as he has created an unstable situation in Sabah," he added. -- BERNAMA

SBJ TS JK