

PDS to meet with state polls in mind

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Barisan support also on agenda

KOTA KINABALU: Keeping the soon-to-be-held state elections in mind, Parti Demokratik Sabah holds its fourth congress tomorrow with delegates looking at a way forward through Barisan Nasional in handling the economic crisis.

The 600 delegates of the party, led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, would also be adopting several resolutions, the most important of which would be full support for Barisan at both federal and state levels.

PDS secretary-general Datuk Wences Angang said Dompok's presidential speech would focus on how Sabah, as a component of the nation, could help to overcome the economic problems.

He said the party members felt honoured that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would be opening the

congress.

Dr Mahathir, arriving in Labuan this evening, would be in Sabah the following day to declare open the PDS congress as well as attend a meet-the-people gathering.

He would also open the assembly of the Liberal Demokratik Party (LDP), led by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Senator Datuk Chong Kah Kiat on Saturday.

Wences said the PDS delegates in deliberating various issues facing Sabah would keep in focus preparations for the next state elections, which must be held by April.

"Although this is a party election year, our delegates will be united as they know that the state elections will be called soon," said PDS deputy president Datuk Wilfred Bumburing.

Both Bumburing and

Dompok have been returned unopposed as deputy president and president respectively. Five other vice-presidents were also returned unopposed.

Bumburing said some contests were expected for the party's 16 supreme council positions.

PDS, a major non-Muslim bumiputra component party of Sabah Barisan, has 11 state assemblymen in the 48 elected-member state Legislative Assembly.

At the LDP congress, partymen are expected to discuss issues ahead of the state polls. Among them are economic and education issues.

LDP's chief publicity officer Lim Ah Seng said it was not an election year and they did not anticipate any major resolutions to be made at the ninth party congress.