

13/08/1998

`Co-operate with BN components'

KOTA KINABALU, Wed. - Sabah Umno leaders and members are advised to adopt a moderate approach and be always ready to co-operate with their counterparts in the other Barisan Nasional component parties.

State Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Osu Sukam said Umno leaders should set a good example to leaders of other BN component parties in ensuring victory in the next State election.

Speaking to reporters after chairing an Umno liaison committee meeting here last night, Osu said Umno leaders and members should not get involved in petty issues.

"Umno leaders and members at all levels must not allow petty issues to sway their focus in preparation for the election," said Osu, who is also Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister.

He said it would be difficult for the BN to win the State election if there was no co-operation and understanding among the component members.

Osu said it was resolved at the meeting that all Umno divisional chiefs, Assemblymen and Members of Parliament go to the grass roots to explain the need for unity in the BN.

On Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh's decision to resign as Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief, Osu said the matter had been referred to Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On whether Sabah Umno had recommended to the Prime Minister potential candidates for the post, Osu said there were several State Umno leaders holding positions at the Federal level suitable for the job.

"Maybe one of the State Umno leaders holding a position at the Federal level will be appointed to the post or perhaps the Prime Minister might decide that Ghapur should stay on."

Ghapur, who declined to be reappointed to the new State Cabinet under Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, tendered his resignation about four weeks ago, citing the need for the post to be given to Umno leaders holding positions at Federal or State levels.

The likely candidate to replace Ghapur is newly appointed Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam.

(END)