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Dompok-Election

DOMPOK SAYS BN CAN WIN IN NEXT STATE POLLS

KOTA KINABALU, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today he is confident that the Barisan Nasional (BN) can win in the next state election.

He said he was basing his confidence on the BN's ability to develop Sabah since taking over the state administration in 1994.

The five-year mandate of the 48-seat Sabah State Legislative Assembly ends on March 18.

Dompok, who is also Sabah BN chief, said the government was striving to pull the country out of the economic doldrums and the people could assess its seriousness and ability to tackle the economic problems.

He told this to reporters after attending the "open house" of Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) vice-president Datuk K.A. Vanar, here.

He was asked to comment on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Tokyo two days ago that the BN would form the government after the next general election although its majority might be reduced.

Dompok said the decision is in the hands of the people but "I think they can assess what the government is doing to develop this state."

On the possibility of Sabah BN scrapping through with a slim majority in the next polls, he said this is not a big problem as the State Constitution provides for the appointment of six Nominated Assemblymen by the ruling party.

At present, BN controls 43 of the 48-seat legislature while PBS held the remaining four. The assembly has an independent assemblyman.

Of the 43 BN-held seats, Umno has 21, Parti Demokratik Sabah (11), SAPP (five), Akar Bersatu (three), Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (two) and MCA (one).

Three BN component parties -- MIC, LDP and Gerakan -- have no representatives in the assembly.

The quota of six nominated assemblymen is currently being shared equally between the BN and PBS with three each.

Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai also attended the open house.

-- BERNAMA

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