

14 AUG 1998

Dompok-PDS

IMPORTANT FOR BN TO CONTINUE TO RULE SABAH, SAYS DOMPOK

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- It is important for the Barisan Nasional (BN) to continue to rule Sabah if the people do not want to be deprived of development in years to come, Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today.

He said this question of the BN continuing to govern Sabah up to the year 2020 and after is one of the most critical issues, needing the attention of the people of Sabah when they face the state election.

"This is important to ensure continued political stability and the same government continuing with measures to increase the wealth of the nation and be enjoyed by the people," he said in his keynote address at the fourth congress of the Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), here.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also BN Chairman opened the congress. Dr Mahathir is on a three-day visit to Labuan and Sabah from yesterday.

Dompok, who is PDS president, said the Kadazandusun community which served as the pillar to PDS must continue to support the BN, not only to ensure that they would not be left from the mainstream of national development but also to ensure that the people remained united under the BN.

He said the Kadazandusun community should not fall for narrow sentiments fanned by the opposition because only the BN had been proven to be fair and the only coalition party which could champion the welfare of communities in Malaysia.

For the past four years, the PDS had implemented various programmes towards this and these included the setting up of the Kadazandusun Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Kadazandusun Language Foundation (KLF) and several networks of socio-economic institutions for the community, he said.

Dompok, who is also Sabah BN chief, reminded the people of Sabah not to insist on the post of departmental head in federal departments in Sabah be given to the locals because what was important was positive contribution to nation building.

"The participation of Sabah born in the federal public service is important, more so if they are qualified to hold the post of departmental head. But is the post so critical to us that we ignore the question of effectiveness and work performance?" he said.

In this connection, he said the system of multiple representation founded by the late Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and still practised by the BN to these days had guaranteed the voice of all communities be heard and given due consideration in forum of the party and the BN government.

Compared to the previous alliance system, a community need not necessarily be represented by only one party in the BN under the multiple representation system as the interest would continue to be safeguarded through the politics of consultation, based on socio-economic and religious background of a group.

Dompok also said one of the reasons for the fall of past BN governments in Sabah (like USNO-SCA and Berjaya) was the failure to implement in a fair and just manner the concept of power-sharing, resulting in certain communities feeling neglected.

In the context of Sabah which has many political parties, he said the BN component parties should be sensitive to the aspirations of certain communities or groups to avoid such feeling from becoming widespread after

which it would be too late to save a political institution.

"In this connection, every component party must take the initiative to explain the history, concept, principle, philosophy of struggle, charter and vision of the BN to their members," he said.

-- BERNAMA

KG ABG