

05/12/1998

`No logic in registering people as Sabah Foundation members'

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - A Sabah Umno official has described an on-going exercise by the Opposition Parti Bersekutu to register the people of Sabah as shareholders of the Sabah Foundation as an insult to them.

Sabah Umno information chief Datuk Karim Ghani said there was no logic in the exercise because there were no shares in the foundation for the people.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the Sabah Umno Information Bureau committee meeting, here, Karim said the exercise was a desperate attempt by Parti Bersekutu to get the people's support.

"The exercise is nothing more than a political gimmick," he said, echoing a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the same issue during his recent visit to Sabah.

Parti Bersekutu acting president Datuk Harris Salleh had when launching the exercise two months ago said each adult "Sabahan" was entitled to an annual RM300 dividend from the foundation.

Karim said when Harris was Chief Minister between 1976 and 1985, Sabah's economy was booming and the State had large areas of timber but there was never a payment of RM300 dividend from the foundation to the people.

Meanwhile, the Sabah Umno Information Bureau in collaboration with the Information Department will organise a day-long ceramah this Sunday on preparation for the forthcoming State elections.

Among the speakers invited for the colloquium are former Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Umno information chief Datuk Mohd Yusof Noor and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak will officiate its opening, while Sabah Umno liaison committee chief Datuk Osu Sukam will close it.

Karim said about 1,000 division and branch level information chiefs were expected to attend the ceramah.

(END)