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Dompok - Post

NO PDS-PBRIS TIFF, SAYS DOMPOK

KOTA KINABALU, May 13 (Bernama) -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) President Tan Sri Bernard Dompok today denied there is "intense rivalry" between his party and the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRIS) headed by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Kurup.

"There is no infighting in the sense as what is being promoted (by the media)," he told reporters here after attending the state cabinet weekly meeting.

Both the PDS and PBRIS are components of the Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN).

People tend to speculate even about things that did not exist, said Dompok when asked to comment on a local news report suggesting that rivalry between both parties has grown in intensity "to the point of acrimony in the last few weeks."

The report, quoting sources, cited the impending appointment of a new Sabah Chief Minister among the non-Muslim Bumiputera as one reason for the rivalry.

Dompok and Kurup were said to be the forerunners for the post currently held by Datuk Yong Teck Lee, President of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), whose term expires end of the month.

Asked on his relation with Kurup, Dompok who is also the state Tourism and Environment Minister said that it was a normal one.

"We know what is written in the newspapers and we do not want to react the way the media want us to," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, during his brief visit to Sabah last week, said he would announce the name of the new Chief Minister after returning from the G-15 Summit in Cairo.

Dompok acknowledged that some of the reports on the rotation of the Sabah chief ministership were quite "mischievous" and could cause frictions if taken seriously.

He added: "Politicians must ensure such friction will not happen."

-- BERNAMA

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