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Motions

PDS SEEKS APPROVAL FOR "KADAZANDUSUN" TERM

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), which ended its fourth congress here today, has unanimously endorsed a motion that children of Kadazan or Dusun descent be grouped as "Kadazandusun" on their birth certificates if the parents request so.

The party, which is led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, said the National Registration Department should give the approval so as to overcome an identity crisis bothering the Kadazan and Dusun communities.

The congress also passed a motion, tabled by Tambunan delegate Petrus Guriting, fully supporting measures by the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition to revitalise the beleaguered national economy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also BN chairman, opened the two-day congress here yesterday.

Kiulu division delegate Phanilau Kohong, when debating the motion on the Kadazandusun term, said the proposal was timely to deal with the identity crisis of the two communities.

"For instance in one particular case, the father's birth certificate states that he is a Dusun, but the son's says he is a Kadazan. The boy's sister is stated as a Kadazan and younger brother, a Dusun," he said.

Phanilau attributed the communities' identity crisis partly to illiterate parents of the 60's who relied on the department's clerks or village mid-wives to fill up particulars when registering births.

He said institutionalising the term Kadazandusun would be relevant as Kadazandusun has been accepted as a mother tongue to be taught in schools in Sabah since last year.

According to Phanilau, the problem could be resolved if the department could come up with a special set of guidelines for birth registration of Kadazandusuns and Muruts.

He hoped the PDS motion would not be politicised as its only intention was to contribute towards establishing an identity for the Kadazandusuns.

Under Dompok's leadership, the PDS has set up a Kadazandusun Language Foundation besides ensuring that Kadazandusun get taught in schools in the state, he said.

The congress also passed a motion tabled by Penampang delegate Fred Mooson calling for the use of family surname for Kadazandusuns or Kadazans or Dusuns and Muruts in Sabah.

-- BERNAMA

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