

27/12/1999

`Sabah BN Assemblymen must use Bahasa'

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - Barisan Nasional State Assemblymen must use Bahasa Malaysia during debates and other proceedings in the State Legislative Assembly.

Sabah BN wants this to be followed strictly although Standing Orders 42A of the State Assembly provides that proceedings and debates shall be in English or Malay.

It, however, said there would be those who preferred to use English.

Sabah BN head Datuk Seri Osu Sukam said elected representatives were also required not only to attend Parliament and State Assembly meetings but also to participate actively as expected of them by the people who voted them.

BN officials will be watching its MPs attendance and participation in debates. Among action to be taken against MPs who do not perform well is to drop them for the next general election.

Speaking after opening the United Sabah Islamic Association annual general meeting at Wisma Muis here today, Osu, who is also Chief Minister, said: "The directive by Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) is for the good of all BN's MPs and Assemblymen, to live up to the expectation of the people. And this includes the use of Bahasa Malaysia."

"The BN Government wants to ensure that all its assembly members use Bahasa Malaysia in the State Assembly."

BN has 39 members in the State Assembly, including six nominated Assemblymen. Opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah has 15 members. In Parliament, Sabah has 17 members - 14 from BN and PBS (three).

Meanwhile, Osu who is also State Finance Minister, said the Government would provide immediate allocations to help victims of the recent natural disaster rebuild their houses.

He said so far RM300,000 had been given out to victims in Tawau after an inspection of the damages to houses and bridges by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Wilfred Bumburing.

"The Government is still waiting for reports from other areas before giving out allocations."

(END)