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Dompok-BN

BN CAN OBTAIN TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY - DOMPOK

KOTA KINABALU, July 12 (Bernama) -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok today expressed confidence that the Barisan Nasional (BN) will return to power in the coming general election with a comfortable two-thirds majority.

"I don't think that a two-thirds majority is something that is difficult for the BN to achieve," he told reporters after hosting a luncheon for the media here.

Asked to comment on the opposition's intention to go all out to deny the BN a two-thirds majority, Dompok said: "I view this as an admission by the opposition that the BN will win the general election. The only issue is the number of seats that will be won."

He said the people were aware of the need to give the government a strong mandate.

"The BN has achieved a two-thirds majority before and I don't think it would be any different this time," he said.

Dompok, who is the former Sabah chief minister, said Umno as the backbone of the BN government was seen as the party for the Malays and they would continue to support it.

"I do not see why the Malays in the peninsula would not want to support the party which had been championing their cause since 1946.

"On the other hand, I also do not see any reason why the non-Malays can't support the BN because this is the party that has been successful in maintaining stability...and despite the recent setback due to the economic downturn, the country's leadership headed by Prime Minister (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad has done very well to overcome the problem," he said.

Dompok also expressed confidence that the BN in Sabah was enjoying more support from the people, especially the non-Muslim Bumiputeras.

"Those who voted for the opposition had done so thinking that the promise made by the opposition -- that they would be back to form the government -- would come true, but it didn't. So I can only see things improving for the BN," he said.

Asked if he planned to contest in the coming general election, Dompok said it was still too early to decide.

The election in Sabah would be confined to the 20 parliamentary constituencies; polling for the 48 state seats took place in March.

On the number of seats that PDS would seek to contest, Dompok said: "We still have a lot of time to discuss about that. In PDS, we have yet to sit down and discuss the distribution and allocation of seats because I think it won't be a problem."

The BN currently holds 14 parliamentary seats in Sabah and Parti Bersatu Sabah, six.

-- BERNAMA

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