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Sabah-Abdullah

BN ELECTION MACHINERY FULL SWING IN SABAH, SAYS PAK LAH

SHAH ALAM, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the Barisan Nasional (BN) election machinery in Sabah had gone full swing to whip up support for the coalition.

" We will step up our campaigns in the run-up to the polls," he told reporters when asked to comment on the dissolution of the 48-seat Sabah State Legislative Assembly today.

Abdullah, who was on a one-day working visit to Selangor, was speaking to reporters after meeting politicians, civil servants, representatives from the private sector and non-governmental organisations, here.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, who is also Sabah BN chairman, announced the dissolution at about noon today to pave the way for the ninth state election.

Meanwhile in KUNDASANG, (Sabah), MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu called on Sabahans to once again give BN the mandate to rule the state as it had proven its capability to bring progress for them.

With the prevailing cordial state-federal ties, many development projects to improve the people's socio-economic status had been implemented, he told reporters after inspecting hillslope reinforcement works from Tamparuli to Ranau.

Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, said Sabah's economy had been well-managed since the BN took over the state administration in 1994 as compared to previous state governments.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, during his three-day visit to Sabah last week, had assured Sabahans that the BN government would ensure the state's natural resources were not exploited for personal gains as had happened before.

He also said Dompok had effectively discharged his duties as chief minister and could protect the rights of Sabahans.

-- BERNAMA

MAM MK TS