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Dissolution: Dompok to consult leaders

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KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok will consult the leaders of the nine Barisan Nasional component parties in the State before announcing the date for the dissolution of the State Assembly.

"But at the end of the day, I will decide on the date," he said after presenting rice donation to victims of the recent floods at Taman King Lam, here.

Dompok, who is also State BN chairman, said he had an idea of when to dissolve the State Assembly.

The nine BN component parties in Sabah are Umno, Parti Demokratik Sabah, Sabah Progressive Party, Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat, Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah, Liberal Democratic Party, MCA, MIC and Gerakan.

Asked if Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will announce the dissolution date when he visits the State on Feb 18, Dompok said the dissolution of the State Assembly was the prerogative of the State.

Dompok added that he would announce the date upon obtaining the consent of the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai.

On LDP president Datuk Chong Kah Kiat's statement that if the State Assembly is not dissolved tomorrow, it will be done after the Chinese New Year, Dompok said anybody was free to make such forecasts.

Chong, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, had said that if the dissolution was to be after the Chinese New Year on Feb 16 and 17, he expected the State election to be held before the first batch of pilgrims left for the haj on March 8.

On the sharp increase of voters in the Moyog, Tandek, Melalap, Bingkor and Kuamut State constituencies, Dompok said he could not comment until he had analysed the matter.

"I do not know who will benefit from the increase of voters in the five constituencies as I have yet to study the matter," he said.

Based on the 1998 electoral roles approved on Jan 7, the number of voters in the five constituencies had increased by about 50 per cent.

Reiterating his confidence that the State BN would be returned to power in the election, he said the negative perception of the Kadazandusun community towards the BN had changed.

"The people, including the Kadazandusuns, are now more receptive to the BN as they are now convinced that only the BN can bring progress and stability to the State."

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