

21 JAN 1999

DOMPOK BRUSHES ASIDE TALK OF OPPOSITION PARTIES JOINING BN

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today there is no need for the Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) to discuss the entry of opposition parties into the BN as the governing coalition will win the next state election outright.

"The truth of the matter is that there is no reason for the BN government to even talk about this because we are confident of delivering seats to form a BN government on our own," he said.

He was commenting on speculations that the opposition parties in Sabah may work together with the BN in the next election.

Dompok, who is also Sabah BN chairman, said: "The BN is very confident of winning it outright, so the question of other parties coming in to join BN does not arise at all."

The oppositon Parti Persatu Sabah (PBS) had previously indicated willingness to "work together" with the BN if the party failed to win the next state election.

Former Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh, who led Parti Bersekutu, another opposition party in Sabah, was reported to have admitted that he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently to discuss "several matters pertaining to Sabah."

Harris said, however, that there was no discussion at the 10-minute meeting on a possible pact or coalition with the state BN.

The current term of the 48-member State Legislative Assembly ends on March 18.

-- BERNAMA

JS JK