

10 DEC 1999

Profile-Dompok

DOMPOK, WELL-RESPECTED KADAZANDUSUN LEADER IN SABAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 10 (Bernama) -- Former Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok is among the well-liked Kadazandusun leaders in the state. He was instrumental in the teaching of Kadazandusun language in primary schools in Sabah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad named Dompok, 50, as the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in his new cabinet line-up today.

After failing to retain the Moyog seat in the state election in March this year, Dompok had expressed his intention to quit politics.

However, after much persuasion by his supporters, he changed his mind and revamped Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), renaming it as United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Organisation (Upko), paving the way for all non-Muslim Bumiputeras in Sabah to come under one political party.

Born in Kampung Inobong, Penampang, Dompok obtained a Bachelor's degree from Britain. On his return, he worked as a valuation officer in the State Land and Survey Department for two years before joining the private sector.

Dompok is a member of the Institution of Surveyors' Malaysia and Malaysia's representative to the United Kingdom's Quantity Surveyors' Association.

A soft-spoken but a vocal politician gained public attention when he was appointed the first Treasurer-General of Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) which came to power in Sabah in mid-1985.

In the 1986 state election, he won the Moyog seat and was made State Finance Minister.

After retaining the seat in 1990, he was promoted to Deputy Chief Minister, holding the Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio.

He was elected as Penampang MP in the parliamentary election the same year.

Following internal crisis in PBS, Dompok left the party to form Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) in 1994 and later joined Barisan Nasional (BN).

Dompok, who won the Kinabalu parliamentary seat in the Nov 29 general election, is married to Puan Sri Diana Dompok and they have five children.

-- BERNAMA

NHD TS