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Dompok-PBS

DOMPOK HITS OUT AT PBS FOR RAISING "PARTY-HOPPING" ISSUE

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 24 (Bernama) -- Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok today criticised opposition parties for harping on the "party-hopping" issue, saying they themselves are not on high moral ground.

He said it was not only assemblymen who had won as Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) candidates who had crossed over to the Barisan Nasional.

"Somebody who won under BN ticket is now in the PBS," he said, in an apparent reference to Kudat State Assemblyman Datuk Kong Hong Ming.

Speaking to reporters after distributing food donation to the recent floods victims at Taman King Lam, Lido, near here, Dompok said opposition leaders resorted to the old issue because they realised the people of Sabah were now more receptive to BN.

Dompok is the president of Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), which was formed after the PBS government collapsed in 1994. It subsequently joined the state BN.

On opposition claims that BN had failed to fulfil promises made during the last state election, he said it was impossible to honour all pledges within five years.

"Universiti Malaysia Sabah, for instance, was never promised (to be completed) in 100 days, yet within the same year BN took control of the state, UMS was built. So there is no hard and fast rule on this," he said.

Dompok denied speculation that the State Legislative Assembly would be dissolved tomorrow, saying he had not made any appointment to see Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Sakaran Dandai to get his consent for the purpose.

"I consulted people particularly BN leaders on the matter... but at the end of the day I'll (be the one to) announce it," said Dompok, who is the Sabah BN chairman.

He said he had "a date" in mind for the dissolution but refused to reveal it.

The current tenure of the assembly ends on March 18.

Meanwhile, Sabah BN secretary Datuk Karim Bujang said all state BN component party leaders would be given an opportunity to speak up on the resolutions of the 3rd State BN Convention, scheduled to be here on Feb 20.

He said the convention was expected to be attended by more than 3,000 delegates and opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

-- BERNAMA

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