

17 JAN 1999

Gerakan-Sabah

GERAKAN NOT CONTESTING IN SABAH ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 (Bernama) -- Gerakan will not contest in the soon-to-be held Sabah Election, Sabah Gerakan acting chairman Tan Sri Soong Siew Hoong said today.

He said the decision was conveyed at yesterday's meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) leaders led by Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok.

The party had also made known its decision to other BN component parties that it would not ask for seats in the election, he told reporters after giving a talk on "Business Opportunities for Small and Medium Size Industry (SMI) Entrepreneurs," here.

Nevertheless, Gerakan would assist the Sabah BN in the election campaign to ensure the ruling coalition formed the next state government, said Soong, who is Gerakan national treasurer.

" We will send our campaigners to 12 constituencies identified by the party," he said.

Gerakan, which spread its wings to Sabah two years ago, has about 3,000 members.

The BN has 43 seats in the 48-member State Assembly while the main opposition party Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) has four with the remaining one held by an independent.

The assembly's current five-year term ends on March 18.

-- BERNAMA

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