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Sabah-Bersekutu

I DON'T NEED FEDERAL GOVT SUPPORT, VOWS HARRIS SALLEH

SANDAKAN, Feb 21 (Bernama) -- Acting Bersekutu president Datuk Harris Salleh said today he doesn't need federal government support to face the state election.

He said the support of Sabahans was enough for Parti Barisan Rakyat Sabah Bersekutu to form the state government.

He claimed that Bersekutu had the support 60 to 70 per cent Sabahans.

" Just like in 1985, we don't want any support from Kuala Lumpur, whether in Barisan Nasional (BN) or outside.

" We have no intention of joining BN and we don't want any support from Kuala Lumpur," said the former chief minister when commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's declaration yesterday that he and the Barisan Nasional are not supporting Harris in the coming state election.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said Bersekutu headed by Harris is an opposition party and there is no way the BN could accept an opposition party as part of the government.

Earlier, when speaking at Bersekutu's Pesta Ang Pau, Harris said Sabahans were matured enough to make the right decision for Sabah and their future.

He said BN need not necessarily win in the election as the governing coalition was merely banking on what it had done during its five-year rule in the state.

He said while the BN-led federal government had its own responsibilities as enshrined in the constitution, the Sabah government too had its own.

Harris claimed that Bersekutu's membership had swelled to more than 400,000 state-wide while close to 600,000 Sabahans had registered for the Sabah Foundation shares which the party promised to give if it formed the next government.

He also claimed the party could win at least 30 of the 48 seats up for grabs in the election.

" There is also a possibility of Bersekutu winning 40 seats," he said.

Harris also announced the party's candidates for the nine state seats in the Beluran, Libaran, Sandakan and Kinabatangan parliamentary constituencies.

They are Jamarudin Maridin (Sugut), Abdul Aziz Nasrah (Labuk), Musa Jala (Sungai Sibuga), Ridi Aliwangsa (Sekong), Dr Lawrence Chu (Elopura), John Khoo (Tanjung Papat), Dr Francis Chong (Karamunting), Pusing Balingan (Sukau) and Abdul Latif Haji Taha (Kuamut).

-- BERNAMA

AFY TS