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Chong-Seat
LDP WILL NOT LOBBY FOR ADDITIONAL SEATS, SAYS ITS PRESIDENT

    KOTA KINABALU, July 4 (Bernama) -- The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP),
a Barisan Nasional (BN) component in Sabah, will not lobby for additional
seats in the next general election.
    "There are not many seats, particularly in Chinese-dominated areas, for
distribution...so we won't request for more," LDP president Datuk Chong Kah
Kiat said today.
    He said, however, that he was leaving the matter to Prime Minister
Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to make the final decision.
    "What is important is that all parties must work together to ensure
BN's victory in the general election. After all, we have only four Chinese
(parliamentary) seats in Sabah," he said.
    He was speaking to reporters after opening the Api-Api LDP division's
annual general meeting, here.
    Besides the LDP and another Chinese-based party, Sabah Progressive
Party (SAPP), the MCA was also keen on fielding candidates in the election,
he said.
    In the last parlimentary election, the LDP fielded its sole candidate
for the Sandakan seat while SAPP contested in three constituencies -- Gaya,
Tanjung Aru and Tawau.
    LDP's candidate, Lau Ngan Siew, won the seat, beating his nearest
rival, Ang Lian Hai of the DAP, by a majority of 3,074 votes.
    Chong said he was confident of retaining Sandakan seat, should it be
allocated to the LDP.
    He also urged the Chinese community in the state to support all BN
candidates, including those from Umno, to ensure continued development and
political stability.
    "We need a strong government under BN. I'm confident Malaysians today
are still very much behind the BN," he said.
    On another matter, Chong, who is state Tourism, Environment, Science
and Technology Development Minister, said the Sabah government was
reviewing the royalties from bird nest's harvest and studying the
environmental impact of the harvesting activity.
    "We hope to complete the study before the harvesters renew their
licences at the end of this year," he said.
    -- BERNAMA
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