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Sabah-Observers

NO TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, SAYS STATE GOVERNMENT

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The Sabah State government will not entertain a proposal by the opposition for international observers to monitor the state election, said Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam.

He said the presence of international observers would only tarnish the country's image.

"The election process in this country has already been acknowledged to be among the best compared to some other countries," he said after officiating at the ground breaking ceremony of a housing project by the Sabah Economic Development Corporation (Sedco) in Lok Kawi, near here today.

Osu said the opposition was using various tactics, some unreasonable, in order to attract the interest of voters for the upcoming state election on March 12 and 13.

Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan yesterday proposed that international observers be allowed to monitor the state election.

Pairin had said that such a move would ensure the transparency of the state election and increase the confidence of the people in the election process.

Osu, the Sabah Umno liaison chief, also said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad later today in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the party's candidates for the state election.

-- BERNAMA

JS PR THG