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Opposition official resigns to join PDS

KOTA KINABALU, Mon. - Opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah suffered another blow when its supreme council member and Kundasang divisional chief Mading Rujum, 42, resigned to join Parti Demokratik Sabah today.

Mading handed his application to PDS president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok at the party's headquarters at Donggongan in Penampang, near here.

Reading from a written statement, Mading told reporters that joining the BN was his own decision and not influenced by any offer or promise of any kind.

"After thinking about the prospect in terms of development for the people in the rural areas, I realised that there is nothing PBS can do to help," he said.

He said only the BN could truly deliver solid development for the State, and the people should not be denied the benefit of development as provided by the BN Government.

"I also chose to join BN as I believe in the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and PDS because I believe in the leadership of Tan Sri Bernard Dompok."

Mading, a officer with Bank Bumiputera Malaysia Berhad and also Sabah Finance Berhad, headed the Kundasang PBS division after former assemblyman Datuk Ewon Ebin defected to PDS in 1994.

Meanwhile, speaking after accepting Mading's application, Dompok denied any knowledge about promises of millions of ringgit offered to Kundasang PBS Assemblyman Karim Adam to join BN.

"Neither have I been approached nor have I made any contact with members of opposition with such offers," he said, adding that many opposition members had joined PDS but had not been highlighted in the newspapers.

On the forthcoming general election, Dompok said his party was prepared to contest in any area agreed upon by the BN leadership. BN have not held any meeting to discuss seat allocation.

With Mading's departure from PBS, it seems that one by one, the founder and senior leaders of the party headed by former Chief Minister Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan are leaving the party.

Over the weekend, former assemblyman for Bengkoka Paul Tom Imbayang also resigned and joined PDS.

Last month, PBS deputy president Datuk Wong Phin Chung, a former Kudat assemblyman, resigned from the party.

Earlier this month, Penampang MP Paul Nointein resigned from PBS to join PDS.

And last week, another PBS deputy president Abdul Malek Chua, the assemblyman for Kuamut, and Ulin Pamiang, the assemblyman for Pensiangan, also ditched Pairin to join BN through Umno.

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