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Sabah Reaction (Penang)

OSU SUKAM IS LEADER WITH WIDE EXPERIENCE- KOH

PULAU PINANG, March 15 (Bernama) -- New Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam is a leader with wide experience at both Federal and state levels and thus he is ably qualified to lead Sabah into the new millennium, Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

Dr Koh assured the new Sabah Chief Minister that Pulau Pinang would fully support and cooperate closely with his administration in the interests of the peoples of the two states.

In a statement, he expressed confidence that under the leadership of Osu economic and cultural ties between Sabah and Pulau Pinang would be further strengthened.

Congratulating Osu on his election as Sabah Chief Minister, Dr Koh expressed confidence that the state would reap many benefits under the Barisan Nasional.

He also wished "Selamat Berjaya" to former Chief Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok who was defeated in the recent Sabah election.

Meanwhile Penang DAP Chairman Karpal Singh, who is also Member of Parliament for Jelutong, said the Sabah State Constitution provided for the victor in the state election to nominate six more assemblymen to have a comfortable two-third majority in the assembly.

He however acknowledged that the constitution, which provided for the nomination, was the supreme law in the state.

"However this provision went against the essence, grain and spirit of the democratic process," he claimed.

He further claimed that having a two-third majority in the assembly through the process of nominated assemblymen was a very serious matter as a two-third majority was required to amend the constitution which was the supreme law in the state.

Karpal felt only a two-third majority acquired through an election ought to be the exclusive manner in which "that sacred document ought to be amended".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the head of Barisan Nasional should direct the Sabah State Assembly to refrain from invoking the provision in the constitution providing for six nominated assemblymen so as not to bring disrepute to the democratic process as universally understood, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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