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Osu-Election

SABAH BN READY FOR GENERAL ELECTION, SAYS OSU

KOTA KINABALU, June 25 (Bernama) -- The Sabah Barisan Nasional (BN) still fresh from its comfortable win in the state election in March, is prepared to face the impending general election, Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam said today.

Osu, who was appointed State BN chairman in yesterday's BN supreme council meeting, said the ruling coalition's election machinery was ready to be mobilised for the election which only involved parliamentary seats in Sabah.

" We just held the state elections, we have no problems to face the general election as the party machinery is still active," he told reporters when asked to comment on Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to component parties to activate their election machinery as the general election could be called any time.

Dr Mahathir issued the directive at the BN's supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Earlier, Osu presented licences for natural petroleum gas distribution and awarded the MS ISO 9002 quality certification to Sabah Energy Corporation.

Asked whether component parties would be consulted on the choice of candidates, Osu said: "That's definite. Actually, the Sabah BN has no problems as this is not the first time we are facing a election."

To another question whether all the nine component parties in Sabah will be fielding candidates in the election, he said: " I wouldn't know."

In the last general election in 1995, BN won 12 of the 20 parliamentary seats with Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) capturing eight.

The BN's parliamentary seats have increased to 14 with the defection of Marudu MP Datuk Amir Kahar Tun Mustapha to Umno two years ago and the recent cross-over of Penampang MP Paul Nointien to Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS), a BN component.

Earlier, in his speech, Osu urged government-owned companies and their subsidiaries to introduce renewal measures to be competitive and to face challenges of the new millennium.

-- BERNAMA

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