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Sabah-Payment

ULIN DENIES RECEIVING RM5 MILLION FOR JOINING BN

KOTA KINABALU, June 22 (Bernama) -- State Assemblyman for Pensiangan, Ulin Pamiang today denied allegations that he had received RM5 million as payment to leave Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and join Umno.

"I joined Umno voluntarily without any coercion and did not receive any privileges nor rewarded with RM5 million as alleged by certain quarters," he said at a press conference, here.

He said he joined Umno with noble intentions to champion the cause of the people in the area where the majority of the community wanted change and development.

"I have sought the views of my supporters and they generally feel that I would be in a better position to bring development to Pensiangan if I were to be in the Barisan Nasional (BN) which is the ruling party in the state," he said.

Accompanying him at the press conference were 60 staunch supporters of PBS including committee members of the division who also announced their decision to leave the opposition party.

"Soon, all the 29 PBS branches in Pensiangan will be dissolved and I have to abide by their wishes that they do not want to be left behind in the progress that is taking place as Pensiangan is one of the most undeveloped areas in Sabah," he said.

Asked whether he had signed the loyalty pledge to PBS not to leave the party when nominated as a candidate in the last state election, Ulin said: "I signed it but it is now up to my lawyers."

Asked whether he was prepared to vacate his seat and allow a by-election for going against the pledge, he replied: "Let the process of law determine my fate."

Ulin said he was prepared to face a by-election on a BN ticket if the court decided so and he was confident that he would again get the support of the people.

Yesterday, PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party was studying the possibility of taking legal action against Ulin for leaving the PBS.

Pairin also claimed that five State Assemblymen from PBS had been approached by certain parties to influence them to join BN.

On Sunday, Ulin and the then PBS deputy president Abdul Malek Chua (Kuamut) announced their decision to join Umno and submitted their application forms to Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur.

-- BERNAMA

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