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Akar delegates give Pandikar mandate to decide party's fate

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - Delegates to the ninth Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) annual congress here today passed a motion to give its president Datuk Pandikar Amin Mulia the mandate to decide the future of the party.

With the mandate, Pandikar, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, now have sole power to decide whether to dissolve the party or continue to let it exist.

When the motion was put to a vote, only 12, including the party's deputy president Datuk George Sangkin, of the 300 delegates did not support it.

Prior to the congress, it was speculated that delegates would most likely decide to dissolve the party and that members join other BN component parties.

Speaking at a Press conference after the congress yesterday, Pandikar said he was not in a hurry to make a decision.

"Whatever decision I make must not only benefit Akar members but also for the good of the Barisan Nasional," he said.

He also said that he had discussed with Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about Akar's future and its position as one of the nine BN component parties in Sabah.

"He said whatever decision I take must be for the greater benefit of the BN," he said.

Formed in 1989, Akar is the oldest BN component party member after the Liberal Democratic Party.

Pandikar said Akar had achieved its key objective of ensuring that the State remained under BN rule.

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