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Moggie-BN

COOPERATION AMONG STATE BN PARTIES MUST BE GENUINE, SAYS MOGGIE

SIBU, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said today there must be genuine cooperation among state BN component parties in facing the upcoming state election.

"We must not be merely agreeing to cooperate but must be genuine in wanting to do so for mutual benefits," he told BERNAMA.

He said his party agreed with Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that the four BN component parties in Sarawak must intensify their cooperation for the election.

Dr Mahathir made the call in a meeting with state BN leaders in Kuching on Friday.

Moggie, who is Federal Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister, said the ruling BN would have little problems to be returned to power again if component parties gave priority to inter-party cooperation and unity.

He said the state BN comprising Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Sarawak National Party (SNAP) and PBDS had cooperated well in previous elections.

"Nevertheless, it is important to remind supporters of every party on the significance to remain united and to work closely together," he said.

He said this was important because during the run-up to the elections there would be people trying to instigate disagreement at the slightest excuse.

"Do not forget if anybody tries to undermine somebody else that somebody will retaliate. So where do we end?" he said.

"After all, the concept of BN is that I support you, you support me. We all support each other," he said.

On PBDS' preparations, Moggie said its election machinery was ready at all levels.

"I'm satisfied with the preparations, including identifying the potential candidates," he said.

He said PBDS would go through the normal practice of making proposals and recommendations to Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud in his capacity as the Sarawak BN chief.

Taib would forward the names with his recommendations to Dr Mahathir for approval, he said.

But before that, the party would analyse the performance of the incumbents, he said.

"If they have good track record, we'll give them their deserved opportunity to be reconsidered.

"From feedback and information received from members and supporters at grassroots level, all seem to have made the mark," he added.

PBDS has eight seats -- Bukit Begunan, Batang Ai, Ngemah, Tamin, Kakus, Pelagus, Baleh and Belaga in the 62-seat state legislature whose five-year mandate expires in September.

BN won 58 seats in the last state election on Sept 6 and 7, 1996 with DAP and Independents winning two seats each.

Two weeks ago, DAP assemblyman for Pelawan Jason Wong Sing Nang quit the party over disagreement on DAP-PAS electoral pact.

-- BERNAMA

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