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Sarawak-Umno

OPPOSITION LINKING UMNO TO CONFUSE S'WAK VOTERS, SAYS KHALIL

KUCHING, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- The Opposition's move to continue associating Umno with Sarawak politics is their strategy to confuse the voters in the run-up to the Sept 27 state election, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

"We have explained several times that we have no reason to enter Sarawak, what more joining in the campaign," he told reporters at the Kuching International Airport before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

He was asked to comment on claims by Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) that former Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha is being used by Umno to bring the party into Sarawak.

The issue was raised by several Keadilan leaders when launching the party's election machinery in Sarawak here two days ago.

Abang Abu Bakar was reported to be leading a group of 45 independents to contest in the state election where 62 seats are up for grabs. The nomination is on Sept 18 while polling has been fixed for Sept 27.

"Datuk Abang Abu Bakar is doing it on his own, we have said it many times including in the Supreme Council. Recently, the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) gave an assurance that Umno has nothing to do with anyone, regardless of whether they want to contest under a party or as independents," said Khalil, who is Information Minister.

Asked whether he considered Keadilan's claim as a slander, he said: "This is their strategy to confuse the voters here. They know that Keadilan has no place here, to reduce support, they mention Umno," he said.

Asked on the action to be taken for using Umno's name, symbol or flags in this election, he said the people are encouraged to lodge police reports.

-- BERNAMA

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