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Osu-Issues

UMNO IDENTIFIES OPPOSITION ISSUES IN LIKAS BY-ELECTION

KOTA KINABALU, July 9 (Bernama) -- By activating its election machinery early, Umno has been able to identify issues which the opposition will harp on in this month's by-election for the Likas state seat, Sabah Umno liaison chairman Datuk Osu Sukam said.

" As such Umno is now ready to counter what the opposition will raise," Osu told reporters after chairing a Sabah Umno liaison committee meeting here today.

Umno secretary-general and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob also attended the meeting.

Osu said last Saturday's Barisan Nasional convention in Kuala Lumpur had invigorated the state BN to work hard to retain Likas in the July 21 by-election.

To a question, Osu said today's meeting did not discuss BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat's statement indicating that a SAPP candidate may stand on the BN ticket in the by-election.

Osu said the committee would leave it to the Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on the BN candidate.

Sabah Umno had earlier expressed interest in nominating an Umno candidate to stand in Likas, where Muslim Bumiputeras made up 60 per cent of the 26,196-strong electorate.

The BN won Likas through the SAPP in the 1999 state election with a majority of 4,962 votes but the Election Court here last month declared the result null and void because of the existence of phantom voters, among other reasons.

-- BERNAMA

HAK RYN