

30 JULY 2001

Dompok-Upko

UPKO SUPPORTS POLITICS OF MODERATION PRACTISED BY UMNO

KOTA KINABALU, 30 Julai (Bernama) -- The United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) will carry on supporting Umno's moderate approach and rejects the style of politics practised by PAS, its president Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said today.

"Upko will continue to support the politics of moderation promoted by Umno including the struggle to defend the rights of Malays and (other) Bumiputeras," he said.

"We in the BN (Barisan Nasional) work hard to defend the country's stability and sovereignty but the opposition, especially PAS, continue with their politics of hatred.

"In this respect, PAS's struggle to set up an Islamic State in Malaysia is totally unacceptable to Upko," he said in his keynote address at the Seventh Upko Congress here.

The congress was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, who is the chairman of BN and president of Umno.

Umno and Upko are both component parties of the BN.

Dompok said Upko leaders at all levels would work hard to get at least 60 percent of the Kadazandusun Murut community to back the BN in an effort to fight the extremism allegedly promoted by the opposition.

He said Upko would continue to contribute to the BN by keeping track of the community's support for the coalition.

The Upko president said any competition within the party should be healthy and not extreme in nature.

"We should learn from the experience of other parties which faced unity problems after members went overboard in their campaign for party posts," he added.

--BERNAMA

JS HAK SK