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PBRs-Crisis
PBRs CRISIS SET TO DRAG ON FOR SOMETIME

By: Jackson Sawatan

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 8 (Bernama) -- The leadership crisis in Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRs) following the election of two "party presidents" looks set to drag on for quite sometime as both factions continue to conduct party matters separately.

Up to today, there were no signs that the two presidents -- Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan and Tan Sri Joseph Kurup -- would be making any move towards reconciliation, even after another group that claims to be the neutral faction of the party suggested that the two leaders compromised.

"I have not met them (the neutral faction) yet, so it is too early for me to say anything pertaining to their suggestion," Kurup told reporters here today.

Asked whether there would be any discussion between him and Dr Jeffrey to solve the problem, Kurup, who is Sabah Resource Development and Information Technology Minister, said: "There is really nothing wrong with us to sit down and talk."

The two presidents were not in contact, however, because as Kurup said, "both of us are busy."

Speaking at a news conference after chairing a PBRs supreme council meeting, Kurup said he had already submitted all the necessary documents to the relevant authorities, namely the Registrar of Societies and the Barisan Nasional (BN) leadership.

"The matter is now in the hands of authorities...for the time being we will have to wait for the decision from the authorities and abide by it," he said.

Asked whether the presidency dispute could be resolved before Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is BN chairman, returns from a holiday abroad, Kurup reiterated that the matter was now in the hands of the authorities.

He said the PBRs supreme council under him would continue to perform its duties in accordance with the objective of the party.

"Life must go on" irrespective of what was happening to the party, he said..

Asked whether this was his greatest challenge in his almost 20 years of involvement in politics, Kurup said there was nothing extraordinary to it.

"This is a normal thing to happen in politics. However, we will try to deal with it in a prudent manner to find a decision that is good for everyone," he said.

Meanwhile, supporters of both leaders continued to differ on whether the congress should be reconvened to pave the way for Kurup and Dr Jeffrey to fight it out by having an outright election for the top post.

While Kurup's supporters said that could create more chaos, Dr Jeffrey's supporters, on the other hand, want a contest to solve the deadlock through democratic process.

-- BERNAMA
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