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Khalil-BN

USE PROPER CHANNELS TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS, KHALIL TELLS BN COMPONENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders were today asked not to quarrel openly in the media but instead use the proper channels to discuss problems.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said if there were serious issues, the BN component parties would usually discuss them in the Cabinet first.

"Serious matters are normally discussed in Cabinet meetings," he said when replying to reporters' questions on Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and People's Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas quarrelling in the media over the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English in primary schools.

Earlier, Khalil, who is also Umno secretary-general, opened the RM300,000 media centre at the Malaysian International Exhibition and Convention Centre owned by the MINES Exhibition Management Sdn Bhd in Seri Kembangan, near here.

Khalil, however, said he did not think the misunderstanding between Dr Lim and Kayveas had jeopardised unity in BN as there was still ample avenue to discuss the issue.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said he was prepared to listen to views on the use of English to teach Science and Mathematics from all quarters.

"If the quarrel gets serious, it can be referred to higher authorities that could decide on policy matters," he said.

Khalil said if BN component party leaders do not hold positions in the Cabinet, they can meet in other forums like the one held by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi this morning.

Abdullah, who is also BN Deputy Chairman, this morning chaired a meeting of BN component parties to discuss the government's decision to teach Science and Mathematics in English in primary schools at his office in Putrajaya.

"I expect the issue to be discussed in tomorrow's weekly Cabinet meeting," he said.

Asked on the serious statement made by Kayveas to suspend Gerakan from Barisan Nasional (BN) for not supporting the move to use English to teach Science and Mathematics, Khalil said the statement was viewed as serious within the component parties but it must be seen from several perspectives.

He said Kayveas probably had certain views and his explanation must be heard.

Earlier, in his speech, Khalil said the media centre would facilitate journalists to send news without having to commute from their office to the place of assignment.

The media centre, located at the Malaysia International Exhibition and Convention Centre, was appropriate as international conferences, exhibitions, sports and recreational activities were held there.

The media centre, built on a 275 sq metre area, has a conference room, rest room, research room and place to send news with computer ports and Internet access, which can be used for free by local and foreign journalists by only showing their press accreditation tags.

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