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Abdullah-PBRS

ACCEPT ROS DECISION FOR SAKE OF PARTY UNITY, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan, one of two people claiming the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) presidency, should accept the Registrar of Societies' (ROS) declaration that Tan Sri Joseph Kurup is the rightful chief of the party.

"I hope he will accept it because the important thing is not to create a crisis in PBRS," he told reporters at the RMAF base in Subang, near here, after welcoming home Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from his overseas trip.

The deputy prime minister said it was important for PBRS, a Kadazandusun-based party, and the rest of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties to remain united for the sake of the coalition.

The PBRS leadership tussle erupted in late January when delegates aligned with Kurup and Dr Jeffrey conducted separate meetings and elected both leaders as president.

Abdullah said the move by Dr Jeffrey to take control of the party was against the PBRS constitution and was unacceptable.

Yesterday, ROS Datuk Ismail Dollah Harun said Kurup had been acknowledged as the legitimate president as his election was made in accordance with the party constitution.

He made the decision after studying separate reports submitted by Kurup and Dr Jeffrey.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat, who was also present at the RMAF base, said he hoped everyone would accept the ROS' decision.

"I hope this decision will stabilise further the political situation in Sabah because political stability is needed in the government's effort to bring development in this country," he said.

-- BERNAMA

MAD DC YBY