

28 JAN 2002

Kurup-Jeffrey

PM BRIEFED ON DR JEFFREY'S SUSPENSION, SAYS KURUP

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRs) president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said today that he has met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to inform him of the party's situation and the decision to suspend deputy president Datuk Dr Jeffrey Kitingan.

Kurup said that besides Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamad Rahmat had also been briefed by him of the matter.

He said that he briefed both Dr Mahathir and Mohamad when he attended the BN meeting in Kuala Lumpur last Wednesday to discuss the application by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to rejoin the BN.

" I briefed Barisan Nasional secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamad Rahmat and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when I attended the BN meeting," he told reporters after opening the seventh PBRs congress here.

Last Friday, Kurup announced the suspension of Dr Jeffrey for allegedly going against the interest of the party.

When announcing the suspension, Kurup said that he had exercised the power conferred on him as president under Article 59 (iv) I of the party's constitution after receiving sufficient proof that warranted the suspension.

According to him, Dr Jeffrey allegedly breached party discipline and infringed the party's constitution at the Tambunan divisional annual general meeting held on Aug 25 and 26, last year.

The Bingkor state assemblyman was also said to have allowed money politics in the process of conducting the said divisional AGM and allowed non-members from 60 branches to participate and to vote in the meeting.

However, Dr Jeffrey, crying foul over his suspension, said that he plans to file an injunction to stop the party's congress from proceeding.

Asked on Dr Jeffrey's plan, Kurup said it was his right to resolve the matter through the court.

Asked to confirm the suspension of three PBRs divisions, Kurup said that he had clear evidence that 60 branches from the Tambunan division consists of names of non-members.

Similarly for the Pensiangan division, where some of the heads of the branch were not even members of the party, he said.

However, the Kadamaian division was not suspended but the number of representatives have been restricted, he added.

About 219 party officials from 26 divisions registered to attend the two-day congress.

-- BERNAMA

HAK RM