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Dompok-Seats

UPKO READY TO ACCEPT KADAZANDUSUN SEAT ALLOCATION

KOTA KINABALU, July 29 (Bernama) -- The United Pasok Momogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko), one of the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties in Sabah, is ready to accept seats allocated to the party in the coming general election.

Its president, Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, said that Upko would abide by the decision of the BN leadership on the matter.

"I don't think there is any problem in the allocation of seats. Once decision is made, all BN component parties have to respect it and I think it happens in all elections I have participated.

"Of course, there is a lot of jostling before the election but once it is decided, everybody will accept it for the good of the BN," he told reporters after opening a dialogue on business opportunities in the petroleum industry, here today.

Dompok, who is Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent call to BN component parties to readily accept seats allocated to their respective parties in the next general election.

Dr Mahathir has said that he was making the appeal at this early stage so that when a decision had been made by him as the BN chairman, they would abide by the decision.

Asked on the allocation of limited Kadazandusun seats among BN component parties including Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) in the state, Dompok said: "If there is a lot of people bidding for limited seats...all of them will have to take what they get".

"Of course, the question of whether the party can contribute to the BN victory is another point to consider in all elections," he said.

At present, Upko, a Kadazandusun Murut-based party, has three elected assemblymen -- Datuk Wences Anggang (Kuala Penyu), Datuk Siringan Gubat (Ranau), Datuk Clarence Bongkos Malakun (Moyog) and three Members of Parliament -- Dompok (Kinabalu), Wilfred Madius Tangau (Tuaran) and Philip Lasimbang (Penampang).

Dompok said that the BN's concept of consensus had worked well and had withstood the test of time in solving any squabble pertaining to seat allocation among its component parties in all general elections.

On a different note, Dompok urged local entrepreneurs to link up with established international business entities if they were to venture into the petroleum industry to enhance their competitiveness.

He said that the dialogue session between local businessmen and Petronas here was appropriate as it would give them an insight into the many opportunities of business relating to the petroleum industry particularly in Sabah.

-- BERNAMA

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