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Musa-Reaction

BN COMPONENT PARTIES WELCOME MUSA'S APPOINTMENT AS CM

KOTA KINABALU, March 4 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties in the state welcome Datuk Musa Aman's appointment as the new Sabah Chief Minister, succeeding Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

They believe Musa, who is also Sabah Finance Minister and head of the Sabah Umno Liaison Body, is capable of discharging his duties well and fairly.

Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan said the party would give full cooperation to the new leader of the state government administration.

"I congratulate Datuk Musa and I'm convinced that he is capable of carrying out his task with wisdom for the good of everyone," he said when contacted by Bernama.

When asked on the possibility of a revamp in the Sabah cabinet following the power shift in the state government, Pairin said the party was prepared to contribute its services.

"Should there be a state cabinet reshuffle, we hope PBS will be taken into account (in the cabinet list)," he said.

On the rotation system for the post of Chief Minister, Pairin said the party felt BN should discuss the issue before the next state election to get a final decision.

PBS, which now has 13 members in the State Legislative Assembly, forms the second largest party after Umno with 26 state assemblymen.

The Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) also welcomed the appointment of Musa as the next Sabah Chief Minister as announced by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur today.

Its president, Datuk Yong Teck Lee said SAPP believed that the timely announcement had put to rest an uncertainty in the state government and politics.

"The people of Sabah can now concentrate on giving full support and co-operation to the incoming Chief Minister," he said in a statement.

Yong said Musa's record in the government and the private sector had shown that "he is a capable leader with extensive experience in economics and administration".

"SAPP has full confidence in Musa as the new Chief Minister and (the incoming) chairman of the Sabah Barisan Nasional," he said.

Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) president Tan Sri Joseph Kurup said Musa's appointment was most appropriate as he was now the Sabah Umno Liaison head.

In addition, Musa was also an experienced leader who could assist in driving development in the state and thus achieve Vision 2020, he said.

"PBRS will give undivided support to him and we believe he is capable of taking the state towards excellence.

Kurup was confident that Musa would give equal treatment to all BN component parties in the state and capable of uniting Sabah's multi-racial community.

"He (Musa) is the Chief Minister for everyone and PBRS hopes he can contribute in bringing a big victory for BN in the next state election," he said.

On the future of the rotation system for the post of Chief Minister in Sabah, Kurup hoped the BN component parties in the state could discuss the matter after the next election adding: "PBRS will accept whatever decision

made by the BN top leadership".

State BN secretary Datuk Karim Bujang, who also welcomed Musa's appointment, said it had been expected and he hoped all BN component parties in the state would accept the appointment and give their solid support to the new Chief Minister.

"We should give our support to him to strengthen the BN's struggles in the state especially in facing the state election," he said.

Sabah Puteri Umno information head Suzaini Sabdin Ghani said the state Puteri Umno members welcomed Musa's appointment, describing the incoming Chief Minister as the "father for the establishment of Puteri Umno in Sabah".

"As chairman of the Sabah Umno Liaison Body, it is certainly appropriate that he is appointed the new Chief Minister to continue with the efforts of current Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

"We hope he will not only be fair to Umno members but also to members of all the BN component parties," she added.

-- BERNAMA

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