

16 MAY 2003

Kurup-PBRS

DON'T FORGET US IN NEXT ELECTION- PBRS CHIEF

KENINGAU, May 16 (Bernama) -- President of the Parti Bersatu Rakyat Sabah (PBRS) Tan Sri Joseph Kurup has expressed the hope that his party will not be forgotten but instead will be given an opportunity to contest in the next election.

He said even though the PBRS was a small party still its loyalty to the Federal Government and the Barisan Nasional struggle was strong and unwavering.

The PBRS had continued with its efforts to convince Sabah's Kadazandusun and Murut communities to support the Barisan Nasional, Joseph said.

"Hence we hope the PBRS will not be forgotten but will be given an opportunity to contest in the election," he said when addressing his party's Eighth Congress at the Keningau Community Hall today. It was opened by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Joseph, who is State Youth and Sports Minister, said his party would continue with its role to help the BN Government implement its policies and realise the national vision.

The PBRS would help realise the objective of creating national unity and eradicating poverty among all people irrespective of race, he said.

"Some raise the issue of the defeat of (all) PBRS candidates who stood on the BN ticket in the last general election."

"However it should be remembered the defeat was not because there was no development but due to political sentiments that were raised against the BN Government. That is why they rejected the PBRS because development was a secondary question to them then," he added.

However Joseph said the people in Sabah particularly the Kadazandusun and Murut communities had since realised that the PBRS struggle through the BN was to bring about development, peace and ensure the people's wellbeing.

"Now they know this is the main objective that ought to be achieved in life and also that only the BN has the ability to bring about all this to the people," he said.

On the past internal crisis in the PBRS, Joseph said this had been resolved and urged all members to derive a lesson from what the party went through in 1996 and 2001.

"We know the problems that happened were created by insincere people motivated by self-interest. There were also those who wanted to see the destruction of the PBRS but in the end victory favoured those who were for the truth."

He also expressed thanks and gratitude to Dr Mahathir for helping to develop Sabah.

"We will always remember Datuk Seri's contributions," added Joseph.

-- BERNAMA

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