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Sabah-Keadilan

KEADILAN WANTS SABAH MINISTERS TO DECLARE ASSET TO PEOPLE

KOTA KINABALU, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) has called on Sabah state ministers and assistant ministers to declare their assets to the people to show true transparency in the state government.

State Keadilan liaison chairman Datin Saidatul Badru Tun Said said today that there was a need for them to do so in the wake of the reported RM1 billion debt incurred by the state government over the past few years.

"The people of Sabah have every right to know whether their leaders' spending corresponds with their income.

"Apparently, the state government's financial standing is shrinking and is on the verge of bankruptcy. So, under the present circumstances, the people are eager to know whether there are ministers or assistant minister who live in luxury at the expense of the people," she told a news conference at the state Keadilan office, here.

Saidatul claimed that most of the state ministers and assistant ministers might have declared their assets as requested by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad "but they have yet to declare their assets to the people of Sabah for them to really know their financial status".

In drumming up support for the party in facing the upcoming state election, Saidatul challenged the state government to expose to the identities of those allegedly involved in the RM1 billion debt debacle.

She said that Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat's disclosure of the issue was baffling as the government had promised the people to manage and administer the state well.

In exposing this recently, Chong had said that the current RM1 billion debt owed by the state government was due to spending money that it did not have.

He said the state government had spent RM500 million in 1996 and another RM500 million in 1997 in anticipation of earning it back from the listing of Sawit Kinabalu Sdn Bhd on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, which had not materialised.

-- BERNAMA

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