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Masing-Party

MASING BREAKS HIS SILENCE TO ANSWER MOGGIE'S ACCUSATION

KUCHING, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Sri Dr James Jemut Masing, the leader of the rival faction in the crisis-stricken Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), has no plans to form a new political party.

Dr Masing said today that presently his faction was recruiting new members for PBDS and not for a new party as claimed by former party president Datuk Amar Leo Moggie in Kanowit last Saturday.

Replying to accusations by Moggie at a news conference here, Dr Masing, however, said he did not rule out the possibility of forming a new party if the Registrar of Societies (RoS) decided to de-register the 20-year-old PBDS.

"This (forming a new party) is one of the options," he said, adding that for the moment his faction was awaiting the outcome of the RoS investigation.

Moggie, the Federal Minister for Energy, Telecommunications and Multimedia, had described Dr Masing as "a paranoid who will go to any lengths in wanting to be president."

Dr Masing said Moggie had clearly reneged on "The Miri Formula" which was agreed upon on March 15, last year, whereby a succession formula was worked out.

He said at that gathering of leaders from 168 branches that took place in Miri, all those present agreed that there should not be a contest for the presidency and deputy presidency after Moggie quits and that the president would be Datuk Sri Daniel Tajem with him as his deputy.

Unfortunately, Dr Masing said, Moggie had not declared his support for the "Miri Formula" and remained silent.

"I'am not paranoid...it is he who is paranoid. He should follow UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's and former MCA president Datuk Seri Ling Liong Sik's style by naming his successor publicly before stepping down," he said.

Dr Masing said it did not matter whether the party members agreed on the successor or not as at the end of the day the members would decide through a democratic party election.

Dr Masing claimed that the party Triennial Delegates Conference (TDC) in Santubong recently, which officially declared Tajem as party president and appointed other Supreme Council members, was illegal due to many technical flaws.

He said based on information received from "very very reliable sources", the TDC was attended by less than 50 branches and less than 70 delegates.

"Under the constitution to be declared president and deputy president you must get 30 per cent support from the branches but as only 48 branches attended it only constituted about 18 per cent as the party has 204 branches," he said.

He said the president and deputy president needed to get the support of more than 50 branches in order to be elected.

He claimed the some of the delegates were not from PBDS but from the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP), Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) and Sarawak National's Party (SNAP).

-- BERNAMA

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