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Abdullah-PBDS

MOGGIE QUIT TO RESOLVE INTERNAL PARTY PROBLEMS, SAYS ABDULLAH

JEMPOL, June 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Amar Leo Moggie resigned as Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president in a move to resolve internal party problems, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

"Indeed, there are problems. If not, he wouldn't have resigned, but his resignation was to solve the problems in the party," he said when asked if there were internal problems in PBDS, a component of the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN).

Abdullah spoke to reporters after meeting officers, staff and trainees at the Ayer Hitam Police Training Centre (Pulapah), here.

Abdullah said Moggie, who is also Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister, had informed him and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about his resignation as PBDS president.

Moggie had held the party post since PBDS was formed 20 years ago. He resigned on Wednesday.

"We (Dr Mahathir and I) can see Moggie's argument, no need for me to explain it here, they're reasonable," he said.

Following Moggie's resignation, his deputy Datuk Daniel Tajem has taken over the post.

Asked on the RM45,000 fine imposed on Gemencheh state assemblyman Datuk Waad Mansor by the Court of Appeal on three counts of corrupt practices, Abdullah said an elected representative's image would be tarnished by the conviction.

"When someone is convicted for crime or corruption, his image will be marred," he said.

The Court of Appeal yesterday overturned a High Court decision to acquit Waad and convicted him of three counts of corrupt practices and fined him a total of RM45,000.

Asked to comment on the statements by several elected representatives in Perak, who have expressed their intentions to make way for new faces, Abdullah said the leadership would accept their decision.

"There are many people, who can become wakil rakyat, if there are people, who have voiced their wish to withdraw on their own free will, we'll accept that, especially if their move is to give an opportunity to new faces," he said.

On the advice by BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat that elected representatives, who have served for several terms should make way for others, Abdullah, who is also BN deputy chairman, said: "That's Tok Mat's advice. It's up to them whether they want to follow."

Mohamed had said his advice was to avoid party members from hating long-serving elected representatives, who give preference to their own interests, and considered that their positions could not be replaced by others.

-- BERNAMA

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