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BN-Crossover

NO MORE CROSSOVER, OR RISK BEING EXPELLED, SAYS MOHAMED RAHMAT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties have decided not to allow any more crossovers among their members, or risk being expelled from the coalition, BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said today.

He said in that this was not a serious matter in the past but due to the latest incident in Penang, "we have to take it seriously".

"The BN, as a party, can now take action as the rule has been set, that is, no more crossovers and no component party should accept any member that crosses over," he told reporters on the sidelines of the Gerakan National Delegates Conference (NDC) here.

The two-day conference was opened by Prime Minister and BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and other BN leaders.

Mohamed said the decision on no crossovers was made at the last BN supreme council meeting in January this year, to avoid unnecessary problems.

At that meeting, they also decided on the suspension of Penang state assembly members Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Ching Liang (Jawi), he said.

He said he only mentioned it now because everyone was focusing on the suspension of Tan and Lim then "and the press also did not ask us about the matter".

The decision not to allow any more crossovers would be incorporated into the code of ethics that he was currently drafting, Mohamed said.

Asked on the seat allocation for the next general election, including for the newly created 25 parliamentary and 63 state seats, he said: "They (BN components) have been talking about it. That's all I can say but I believe the negotiation process (is) being carried out."

-- BERNAMA

AT HS JK