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Umno-Sabah

SABAH UMNO TO HIGHLIGHT PREPARATION FOR STATE ELECTION

KOTA KINABALU, June 17 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno Chief Datuk Musa Aman will highlight the party's preparation for the state election when he speaks at the 57th Umno General Assembly, which begins tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur, he said he would also touch on the subject of unity.

"To us, unity is very important especially when we are bracing ourselves for the state election from now until April 2004.

"Sabah will beef up unity within Umno and also among the component parties in the Barisan Nasional (BN)," he said.

He said he would also raise the state's future course and development during the debate on the presidential address.

On another issue, Musa who is also Chief Minister said Sabah Umno was confident that there would be no power struggle after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stepped down in October.

He said this was because the higher-ups in the party had agreed to leave it to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as Dr Mahathir's successor to appoint his deputy.

"In fact, all the vice-presidents have agreed to it...this is normal and Sabah Umno believes that there will be no problem, particularly in the appointment of Deputy Prime Minister and there will be no power struggle," he said.

Dr Mahathir had expressed concern over the filling of the party's number two post, the holder of which traditionally is a likely candidate for the deputy premier's post.

Two Umno vice-presidents, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had given their assurance to abide by any decision made by Abdullah.

-- BERNAMA

NT ROS ABG