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PBDS-Tajem

TAJEM TO APPOINT REMAINING SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS TOMORROW

KUCHING, June 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Daniel Tajem, who assumed the post of Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) president today, has reappointed Belaga assemblyman Stanley Ajang Batok as secretary-general and Julau assemblyman Joseph Salang as treasurer-general of the party.

"I will consult members at a meeting at the party headquarters tomorrow to appoint the remaining eight supreme council members whose terms as office-bearers had expired following Datuk Amar Leo Moggie's tendering of his resignation letter as party president," he told reporters at the Kuching International Airport upon returning from the federal capital.

He said Stanley and Joseph were appointed because the two positions were important to the party.

Tajem said Moggie had terminated the terms of all the 10 supreme council members whom he appointed at the last Triennial Delegates Conference (TDC) in 2000.

They were Stanley, Joseph, Datuk Sri Dr James Masing (Minister of Social Development and Urbanisation and assemblyman for Baleh), Dublin Unting (Assistant Minister of Tourism and assemblyman for Batang Ai) and John Sikie Tayai (assemblyman for Kakus).

The others were members of parliament Jimmy Donald (Sri Aman) and Billy Abit Joo (Hulu Rejang) and Sim Lai An, Assan Ngang and Paul Kadang.

Tajem said that under the party constitution, following Moggie's resignation as party president, he would automatically assume the post.

"As for the 10 supreme council members, their terms of office have lapsed," he said.

Asked whether he would appoint a new information chief with Dr Masing being dropped from the position. Tajem said he would consult the members at the party's next meeting.

He said the party's stand was that they wanted Moggie to continue to hold his federal cabinet ministerial post.

On the PBDS Credential Committee chaired by Dr Jawie Masing who had threatened to quit recently, Tajem said the meeting would discuss the matter.

He said the date for next month's triennial delegates conference still stood and there would be no changes.

Tajem also declined to answer questions on an allegation that there was a political ploy to suppress Dr James Masing's group.

Dr Masing has aligned with party vice-president Datuk Sng Chee Hua and other supreme council members to rival Tajem for the president's post at the forthcoming conference.

Tajem said Moggie had informed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi of his resignation at PBDS president effective today.

-- BERNAMA

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