

Irresponsible to imply Umno a hindrance to 1Malaysia
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Sabah Umno liaison deputy chairperson Salleh Said Keruak has expressed regret over a fellow BN component party leader's remark that Umno was a hindrance to the promotion of the 1Malaysia concept.

Describing the remark as irresponsible, the former Sabah chief minister said there should be no doubt that Sabah Umno thoroughly comprehended and was fully committed to the concept of 1Malaysia.

"There is, therefore, no need for United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) president Bernard Dompok to question whether Umno understood the true meaning or spirit of the 1Malaysia concept.

"As a federal cabinet minister and president of a BN component party, Bernard should know that Umno is fully committed to the 1Malaysia concept, especially since the concept is mooted by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, who is the president of Umno Malaysia," he said in a statement in Kota Kinabalu today.

Salleh was responding to news reports quoting Dompok as saying that while the prime minister was sincere in his concept of 1Malaysia, what concerned him was whether Najib would be allowed by his party and those surrounding him to carry out the tasks that he was required to do.

The Upko Zone C (Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, Sepanggar and Putatan) Convention on Sunday, saw Upko divisional leaders reiterating their dissatisfaction, following requests by Umno leaders for more seats, including one held by Upko, as well as over the long-standing issue of illegal immigrants in the state.

Salleh said it was normal for political parties to ask for seats but the final decision would ultimately be made by BN's top leadership.

On the issue of illegal immigrants, Salleh said it was unfair to give the wrong perception to the rakyat that the federal and state governments were doing nothing to solve the problem.

"Millions (of ringgit) are being spent on security forces and high-tech equipment along our coastlines for the purpose of surveillance.

"All of us want this issue resolved," he said.

- Bernama

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