

Dompok: Citizens have rights to voice concerns to leaders
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PENAMPANG Sabah – Raising matters that need the attention of the country's leadership is the responsibility of every citizen and should not be seen as going against the government, said United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (Upko) president Bernard Dompok (left).

Dompok said this was what Upko stood for and while the Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition had proven to be a good government, the people wanted to see policies and programmes set out were fulfilled.

"What we are saying today is that, all the things or issues we are talking about, could be overcome faster. So, we in Upko are also helping to tell the BN to find long-term solutions to the problems, issues that we feel should be resolved by the BN and government," he said during the Upko Zone C Convention (Kota Kinabalu, Penampang, Putatan and Sepanggar) here, Sunday.

He said Upko's existence was to support good government policies and while the loyalty towards the coalition might have been tested following the slowness in addressing state issues that were close to the bumiputeras' hearts, it did not mean that any ultimatum was given.

Earlier, Upko division leaders again took the opportunity to voice out dissatisfaction over power-sharing among BN component parties in Sabah, and unresolved state issues like illegal immigrants and the sabotage policy.

"BN should resolve basic issues to strengthen the BN itself. . . But we don't give ultimatum, we are here.

"We have always been loyal to BN for more than a decade, and we feel we must do our part as responsible citizens of this country and explain to the leadership of this country how we feel about the issues, how it should be settled, this is what we have been doing all this time.

"We are not that big a voice, but I think it is clear in the ears of our friends, what we meant," Dompok told reporters later.

He also said that while Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak was sincere in his concept of 1Malaysia, what concerned him was whether Najib would be allowed by those surrounding him to do the tasks that he was required to do.

"This is from my heart, it's how I feel, the Prime Minister is sincere in his concept of 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now, but I'm not so sure whether his party will allow him to do it.

"I think this is one of the things that we will have to point out to the leadership of this country. We must have a Malaysia in which everyone feels they are Malaysians and that there is nobody less. All feel the same, that we are one," he said, adding that he had spoken to Najib about this.

About the dissatisfaction voiced by Upko division leaders Sunday, especially towards the 'big brother' in BN, Umno, he said this was a common feeling among most component parties in

BN.

"There is no denying that there is a feeling, it varies from one party to another, but there is a feeling," he added. - Bernama

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