

Masing Continued Attack Irks Teras Leaders

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KUCHING, July 2 (Bernama)-- Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) president Tan Sri Dr James Jemut Masing's continuous attack on Parti Tenaga Rakyat Sarawak (Teras) has irked the party leaders.

One of the Teras leaders who requested anonymity, said Masing was collaborating with losers and if he continued to push hard, the pressure would be on him.

He said Masing's only interest was the Pelagus seat, adding that Lagong (Pelagus assemblyman George Lagong) had been advised not to join Teras but to remain BN-friendly.

The Teras leader said the real problem in the state Barisan Nasional (BN) now was with the Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and Sarawak Progressive Democratic Party (SPDP) leadership, pointing out that SUPP was still fighting for its triennial delegates conference (TDC).

"There is still one more year for the BN Plus to take root...we are confident that we help to stabilise BN and be a credible alternative to SPDP and SUPP," he said.

Even now they (in Teras) were helping in stabilising BN by remaining in BN, he added.

"But Masing doesn't realise what he is calling for. By calling on us to resign from our seats, it would create chaos. Imagine if we all had resigned before June 20; there would be nine by-elections to be held."

The strategy now, he said, was to get the Bumiputeras out of SUPP, strengthening all the Dayak representatives (members of Parliament and state assemblymen) and consolidate.

He believes by doing so, they would be able to bring back the Chinese into BN.

Teras is now left with nine members out of 11, after Baram MP Anyie Ngau declared that he was staying put in SPDP while Teras has to offload Lagong in the party's line-up.

The reason given for Lagong's offloading was because of his previous political affiliation and not because of the pressure from PRS), which is a BN component party.

The announcement by Teras leader Datuk Peter Nansian Ngusie recently, however, did not stop Masing's attack on Teras.

The Teras leadership line-up will be announced during the party's upcoming triennial general assembly (TGA) scheduled for July 26.

Recently PRS, SUPP and SPDP declared a pact to defend their state BN seat allocations from being taken over by Teras through the elected representatives who resigned from their respective parties to join the new party.

Masing had said that the three parties had agreed not to budge in holding on to all 36 seats - PRS (nine), SPDP (eight) and SUPP (19) - allocated to them under the state BN power-sharing agreement.

He said their common stand on Teras and seat allocation would be conveyed to the top BN leadership at the next BN Supreme Council meeting.

Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) Supreme Council member Datuk Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah said he was surprised that PRS, SUPP and SPDP were jittery over state seats at this point in time as the state election is still far off.

He was baffled that the three BN component parties had continuously expressed their dissatisfaction through the press.

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