

## DAILY EXPRESS NEWS

### Dompok may visit UMS to see what has come of Kadazandusun Chair

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**Penampang:** Upko President Tan Sri Bernard Dompok is likely to visit Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to see for himself what has come of the Kadazandusun Chair initiated by the party.

It is still too early for him to comment on the issue since he has yet to be fully briefed on the matter, he said when asked to comment on the issue raised by party Supreme Council member, Petrus Guriting, that Upko was not represented in the Chair committee.

"It is a case of credit being usurped by someone else," said Petrus in his motion to support the president's policy speech at Upko's Ninth Congress in the Cultural Centre, here Saturday.

Towards this end, he pointed out that among the seven-member committee are Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) President, Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan, and his younger brother Laurentius. Apart from the absence of Upko representatives in the Chair committee, Petrus was also puzzled that studies on the Kadazandusun - the basis for setting up the Chair - were more inclined towards research on Malay roots.

"There are many specialised courses for the Malays in our higher learning institutes, so we wonder why must one meant for Kadazandusun studies be like that as well," he said.

Petrus further claimed that he was told that the Chair committee had only started to function this year.

Dompok said he might visit UMS and in the process, perhaps, get a briefing from Vice Chancellor Tan Sri Prof. Abu Hassan Othman on the mechanism of the Chair and its implementation.

However, he felt "it is not useful for this sort of thing to be made a public debate because

it is a university matter and the proper thing for us to do is to get a briefing from the university."

Meanwhile, Petrus also called on the Kadazandusun Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) to play a more proactive role in assisting new KDM entrepreneurs to get off the ground.

"At the moment, we are told that KCCI is only helping those who are already established. We are not saying this is not good, but what we want is for the KCCI to take another step forward in the bid to create more KDM entrepreneurs," he said.

In this respect, Petrus proposed that KCCI set up a special committee to handle the matter.

Earlier, a delegate from Bingkor proposed that allocations, such as that under the preemptive stimulus package from the Federal Government, be channelled to the respective BN component parties' president, instead of to the respective parliamentary BN chiefs.

The delegate claimed that the distribution of the allocation was not fair.

He was supporting the claim from the Tandek delegate who said that Upko grassroots were disappointed that the BN Tandek headed by PBS had monopolised the allocation, "taking about 70 per cent" and leaving only a small portion for the rest of the component parties.

Meanwhile, a delegate from Upko Wanita proposed that a candidate should not contest in the State and parliamentary elections, to give more chance to the various leaders in Sabah.

"Like Datuk Pairin, if he is already the MP (for Keningau), then there is no need for him to stand for ADUN (state assemblyman) in Tambunan," she said.