

MAHATHIR-PBB
RM

78 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 24 (BERNAMA) — UMNO WILL STUDY AND CONSIDER CAREFULLY ANY OFFICIAL APPLICATION FROM PARTI PESAKA BUMIPUTRA BERSATU SARAWAK (PBB) TO BE ABSORBED INTO UMNO, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE PROPOSAL TO MAKE PBB A PART OF UMNO AS +GOOD+.

DATUKSERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS AN UMNO VICE-PRESIDENT, WAS COMMENTING ON A STATEMENT BY PBB PRESIDENT DATUK PATINGGI TAN SRI HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN YAKUB IN KUCHING YESTERDAY THAT PBB WOULD MERGE WITH UMNO.

+UMNO WILL LOOK INTO THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF THE SUGGESTION, + HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT PBB'S ENTRY INTO UMNO, IF IT TOOK PLACE AT ALL, WOULD NOT MEAN THAT UMNO WOULD BE TAKING OVER THE LEADERSHIP OF THAT PARTY.

HE SAID THAT DATUK PATINGGI RAHMAN HAD MENTIONED SUCH A POSSIBILITY BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION. — BERNAMA MORE 1740/1B

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+IF THIS DOES OCCUR IT WILL BECOME A MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE WITH UMNO AND PBB ITSELF, + HE SAID.

WANITA UMNO PRESIDENT DATIN PADUKA HAJJAH AISHAH GHANI SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS +GOOD+.

+NEVERTHELESS, THE PARTY LEADERS AS WELL AS MEMBERS MUST TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL, + SHE SAID.

SHE SAID THAT NO HASTY MOVES MUST BE MADE AND A DECISION SHOULD ONLY BE ARRIVED AT AFTER EXHAUSTIVE STUDY.

UMNO YOUTH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ENCIK SAIDIN THAMBY SAID THE MOVEMENT VIEWED THE PROPOSAL WITH SERIOUSNESS.

HE SAID THAT THE MATTE, IF POSSIBLE, SHOULD BE DEBATED AT THE COMING UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED. — BERNAMA 1745/1B