

PM-SARAWAK

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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 19 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT HE CONCURRED WITH THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO HAVE A +BARISAN NASIONAL PLUS GOVERNMENT+ IN THE STATE.

HE SAID SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD MADE A LOGICAL DECISION TO FORM THE +BARISAN PLUS GOVERNMENT+ IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE SNAP EX-LEADERS WHO FORMED THE NEW PARTY - PARTI BANGSA DAYAK SARAWAK (PBDS) - HAD THE SAME STAND AS THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB HAD CONVEYED THE DECISION OF THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT TO FORM THE +BN PLUS GOVERNMENT+ WHEN HE MET HIM AT HIS OFFICE HERE ON MONDAY.

+HIS LOGIC IS QUITE ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE HE SAYS THE FORMER SNAP PEOPLE HAVE GOT THE SAME STAND AS THE BARISAN NASIONAL, SO I CAN'T SEE WHY WE SHOULDN'T ADMIT THEM IN THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADMITTED THAT ALTHOUGH THIS WAS CONTRARY TO BARISAN NASIONAL PRACTICE+ I SEE LITTLE REASON FOR ME TO DISAGREE AS WE ARE THINKING OF THE STABILITY OF SARAWAK+.

-- MORE 1406/LK

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE ALSO AGREED WITH DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB THAT THE SNAP CRISIS SHOULD BE CONFINED ONLY TO SARAWAK AND ALSO TO BE RESOLVED AT THE STATE LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MADE IT CLEAR THAT MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO OF THE FORMER SNAP LEADERS IN THE SARAWAK GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE +BARISAN PLUS GOVERNMENT+ DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY ACCEPTED IN BARISAN.

+THEY MUST MAKE AN APPLICATION TO JOIN THE BARISAN AND THE DECISION OF THE BN COMPONENT PARTIES MUST BE UNANIMOUS BEFORE THEIR APPLICATION IS APPROVED.+

-- BERNAMA 1410/LK