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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 17 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) HAS DEFERRED DECISION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) TO JOIN THE 11-MEMBER COALITION.

THE TIME WAS NOT RIGHT TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATION, BN CHAIRMAN PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL HAD HELD A MEETING HERE WHICH LASTED FOR 2-1/2 HOURS.

PBS HAD APPLIED TO JOIN THE BN SOON AFTER TOPPLING THE COALITION'S COMPONENT PARTY, BERJAYA, IN THE SABAH STATE ELECTION IN APRIL.

BERJAYA HAD STATED OFFICIALLY THAT IT WOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVE TO BRING PBS INTO THE BN FOLD.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THE MENTERIS BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS HAD BEEN RE-APPOINTED AS STATE BN CHAIRMEN FOR THE 1985/87 PERIOD, EXCEPT IN KEDAH AND SABAH.

THE KEDAH BN CHAIRMAN IS THE CURRENT MENTERI BESAR, DATUK PADUKA OSMAN AROFF, AND THE SABAH BN CHAIRMAN IS BERJAYA'S NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT DATUK MOHAMED NOOR MANSOOR. -- BERNAMA  
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