

Application from ~~Mahathir~~ ^{Mahathir} PBS is with Barisan, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat.
— Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has confirmed that ~~Parti Bersatu Sabah's~~ (PBS) application to join Barisan Nasional was received by BN headquarters during the Sabah election period of May 5 and 6.

The Prime Minister, who is also Barisan chairman, said the application was not submitted to him personally.

Dr Mahathir also said the Government had several names in mind for the post of Auditor-General, vacated by Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin Haji Zakaria.

However, he added, no appointment has been made as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong had not approved it yet.

Dr Mahathir refused to comment on the report today that Transport Ministry Secretary-General Datuk Ishak Tadin was expected to be appointed to the post.

Speaking to reporters before closing the Police Quran reading competition at the Police Training Centre in Jalan Gurney here tonight, the Prime Minister said: "We have several names in mind but I am not telling you now."

According to sources, Datuk Ishak is expected to take over as Auditor-General on June 1.

Dr Mahathir also denied that he was planning to visit Japan next month as reported by Reuter yesterday.

According to the report, the Prime Minister planned to visit Japan next month for talks on problems caused by the surging yen as well as political and economic issues.

Quoting sources, the report stated that the talks would probably focus on the yen, efforts by the developing countries to penetrate Japanese markets and calls by Malaysia for Japanese firms to invest here.

Asked to comment on another report that the Philippines' outlawed Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) had set up a rear base on an island off Sandakan, Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Affairs Minister, said he was not aware of it.

"Go and ask whoever wrote the report," he said.

According to the report, from Bandar Seri Begawan, the MNLF had set up the base for its guerillas who are fighting to gain autonomy for the southern Philippines.