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BN-PBS/USNO

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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 5, <sup>86</sup> (BERNAMA) -- PARTI BERSATU SABAH (PBS) AND USNO WERE TODAY ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

THE APPROVAL OF THEIR APPLICATIONS WAS MADE AT A MEETING OF THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL CHAIRED BY BN CHAIRMAN AND PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

WITH THE ADMISSION OF PBS AND USNO, THE BN NOW HAS 13 COMPONENT MEMBERS.

FOR USNO, IT IS A RETURN TO THE BN FOLD FOLLOWING ITS EXPULSION ON APRIL 15, 1984, FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO THE CREATION OF THE LABUAN FEDERAL TERRITORY AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT USNO WAS ACCEPTED BACK AS IT HAD CHANGED ITS EARLIER STAND ON THE TWO ISSUES.

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HE SAID: +USNO HAS EXPLAINED THE REASON WHY IT TOOK THE STAND BEFORE AND THAT IT NO LONGER ENTERTAINED SUCH IDEAS AND THEREFORE ACCEPT COMPLETELY BN'S STAND ON THESE MATTERS.+

THE PBS APPLICATION TO JOIN THE BN WAS PROPOSED BY BERJAYA PRESIDENT DATUK HAJI MOHAMED NOOR MANSOOR, WHO IS ALSO SABAH BN CHIEF, AND SECONDED BY MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S.SAMY VELLU.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DATUK MOHAMED NOOR HAD ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RELINQUISH THE POST OF STATE BN HEAD TO MAKE WAY FOR PBS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MINISTER DATUK JOSEPH PAIRIN KITINGAN.

+THIS MEANS DATUK PAIRIN BECOMES BN CHAIRMAN IN SABAH, AS OTHER CHIEF MINISTERS AND MENTERIS BESAR ARE THE BN CHIEFS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL DECISION WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE EFFECT. -- MORE

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TO QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THE PBS, USNO AND BERJAYA, AS BN MEMBERS, WOULD COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING SABAH.

HE SAID SUCH COOPERATION HAD BEEN SEEN WHEN BERJAYA WAS THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND USNO THE OPPOSITION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR DECLINED TO SAY MUCH ABOUT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, ALTHOUGH HE SAID IT WAS DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S MEETING.

ASKED IF A DATE HAD BEEN FIXED, HE SAID: +YES, WE ALL AGREE THAT IT WILL BE HELD SOMETIME BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE NEXT YEAR.+ -- BERNAMA  
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