

# SABAH PACT SIGNING PUT OFF

1986

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. —** The signing of the agreement to form a coalition Government in Sabah involving Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), Usno and Berjaya that was scheduled for this afternoon has been postponed, the Prime Minister said today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was now up to PBS to make the agreement a reality.

PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitigan is expected to arrive here tomorrow to meet the Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Ghafar Baba.

The postponement has been necessitated by the inability of the PBS supreme council, which had been meeting in Kota Kinabalu since yesterday morning, to arrive at any conclusive decision until late tonight.

Dr Mahathir said it would be pointless if only Usno and Berjaya signed the accord.

"The signing would be meaningless if the three parties do not come together," he told the Press after attending a Police Day parade at the Police Training Centre in Jalan Gurney.

He did not indicate any new date for the signing but stressed that there would be no further negotiations on the matter.

"It's up to them (PBS) now... there will be no more negotiations."

Dr Mahathir said it was difficult to predict when the agreement would be formalised.

Asked if he would come up with a new formula should PBS reject the one he had proposed, Dr Mahathir replied: "No comment."

**In KOTA KINABALU:** According to a PBS official, Datuk Pairin is not going to Kuala

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# NO SPLIT IN PBS, SAYS PARTY OFFICIAL

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Lumpur to sign the agreement but to negotiate for a modification of the formula proposed by Dr Mahathir

On the Prime Minister's stand that there would be no more negotiation on the formula, the official said this cannot be as no deadline had been agreed upon by the parties concerned.

He said the formula proposed by the Prime Minister on Monday did not mention any deadline.

"As far as we are concerned negotiations should still be open," he said.

The PBS supreme council meeting today agreed upon an eight-point counter-proposal to the formula presented by the Prime Minister.

Among other things, the counter-proposal suggests that the agreement between the various par-

ties concerned be signed only after the State election.

Should the PBS win by a two-third majority there would be no coalition, the party has decided.

The PBS also wants all court action against the Sabah Chief Minister and the State Government to be dropped.

The post of Chief Minister should also go to the party with the majority of seats in the State Assembly after the polls.

The PBS also wants a provision in the agreement preventing cross-overs of Assemblymen belonging to different parties in the event a coalition Government is set up.

Earlier party information chief Lawrence Simbang denied that PBS was indulging in delaying tactics.

"Since there is no deadline, there is no rush and the Prime Minister's for-

mula should still be open for discussions."

He also said there was no split in PBS. The party supreme council would solidly back Datuk Pairin on all decisions conveyed to the Prime Minister.

The council met at Datuk Pairin's residence from 10.30am yesterday after the PBS delegation led by Deputy Chief Minister Mark Koding returned to Kota Kinabalu from a meeting in Kuala Lumpur with Barisan Nasional secretary-general Ghafar Baba.

Both Usno and Berjaya have agreed to the formula and Usno president Tun Mustapha Datuk Harun said here this morning: "We accept with sincerity the terms of the agreement." (See story on this page)

He added that his party had also been given the mandate by Berjaya to decide on the terms of the agreement.