

# It's now up to Dr M, say Usno and Berjaya

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Usno and Berjaya have left it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Barisan Nasional secretary-general Ghafar Baba to decide on the Parti Bersatu Sabah's counter-proposals to the Sabah Formula.

Usno president Tun Mustapha Datu Harun said the party would "leave it to the wisdom of Dr Mahathir and Encik Ghafar" while Berjaya president Datuk Haji Mohamed Noor Mansor said "it is now up to the Prime Minister to take further action."

Tun Mustapha said Usno had agreed to the formula

because the party felt it was the only way to resolve the problems in the State.

"As far as Usno is concerned, the coalition is the last resort because Usno has no ulterior motive ... *tak ada udang disebalik batu*."

"Malaysia is multi-racial and multi-religious; it is impossible for just one group to rule."

"If PBS is sincere and is loyal to the leadership, there should be no excuse for not having the coalition," he added.

The signing of the accord was scheduled for yesterday but was put off because PBS had come out with its

counter-proposals.

Tun Mustapha claimed that the inability of PBS president Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan to control the party was one of the main reasons for the agreement not being signed.

He said it also appeared as if the PBS was afraid to sign the accord because it did not want to share power.

"If it were to sign an agreement under the auspices of Barisan leaders, it would be bound to honour the agreement unlike what happened when it had a pact with Usno in the last election," he said.

In the April elections, the PBS had a pact with Usno.

However, Usno claimed that the PBS refused to form a coalition when it won the majority of seats.

Tun Mustapha said that a party president should only explain to the supreme council of the decision taken because of the mandate given to him.

"In principle, he must hold on to his word."

"But in this case, he has not. It shows he cannot control his members," added Tun Mustapha.

He also said that since the situation remained the same, he would not withdraw his suit challenging the legality of Datuk Pairin's appointment as Chief Minister.

Asked about the coming state elections in which PBS is confident of winning more seats (it won 25 seats in April election), Tun Mus-

tapha said this might not be the case again.

"In the previous election, Usno and PBS worked together to topple Berjaya and that was what the people voted for."

"Now the people know that this is no longer the case. They are aware that the PBS did not fulfil its word of a coalition government."

In Kota Kinabalu, Datuk Mohamed Noor said Berjaya was disappointed that the agreement failed to materialise.

He said the party had been willing to sign the agreement even though "it was a bitter pill for us to swallow because under the formula, we will not have any Cabinet post."

"We will still sign it al-

though many of our members oppose it. If they (party members) cut off one of my hands, my other hand will still sign the pact."

"But the agreement will never be signed if we place too much emphasis on personal position and interests," he added on returning from Kuala Lumpur.

Asked if Berjaya was prepared to go into further negotiations until the accord was signed, Datuk Mohamed Noor said the party was ever-willing and had shown its sincerity on several occasions.

"It is now up to the Prime Minister to take further action," he added.

He also said Berjaya would go to the polls.

"We have no choice. But do not underestimate the extent of our support," he added.

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