

For the well-being of Sabah Looking for the right mix

NET - 7 APR 1986

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister today described the counter-proposals made by Party Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to the Sabah peace formula as too lopsided.

"The counter-proposals are too one-sided. They only stress the interests of the PBS when we actually prefer to see meaningful co-operation in the administration of Sabah."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Barisan Nasional was more inclined towards ensuring that no single community controlled the right to change or amend the Constitution or laws of the State and country.

"In the Barisan Nasional, all races and communities are represented such that there is no single race or community which has a two-thirds majority to change the Constitution without the agreement of the others," he said.

In Sabah, however, the PBS wanted a two-thirds majority in the State Assembly and thus be able to amend the State Constitution without considering

By SHARIFAH ROZITA
and NOR HAWA YUNUS

the position or arguments of the other communities.

"This is unhealthy," Dr Mahathir told reporters after chairing a four-and-a-half-hour meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

Mandate

He said no decision was taken this morning on the Sabah situation.

Umno has given its representatives in the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council the "fullest mandate" to decide on steps to resolve Sabah's political problems.

It has also given its political bureau a free rein in finding a solution to the issue, based on the latest developments in the State.

Umno, he added, would also accept certain amendments to the *Sabah Formula*, which stressed "meaningful co-operation" between the parties, "if these did not touch too much on the principles of the formula."

Pointing out that the co-operation formula was still the best for Sabah, Dr

Mahathir said Umno would still "keep an open mind" towards any other suggestion to solve the Sabah crisis.

"We have not closed the door, we want to see co-operation in Sabah, we want to find a solution and we will try our level best for this," the Prime Minister said.

The Umno representatives in the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council and the Umno political bureau have been given the mandate to determine the party's stand on the Sabah crisis as well as on the applications by the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) and Usno to join the Barisan Nasional.

"This is because developments in Sabah keep changing and if we made any kind of decision today, things could have changed by the time the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meets," he said.

The Barisan Nasional Supreme Council meets on Wednesday. The Umno representatives to the meeting are Dr Mahathir and vice-presidents Ghafar Baba and Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dr Mahathir had briefed the Umno Supreme Council on his meetings with the leaders of the PBS, Usno and Ber

↳ TURN TO P2. COL 3

Supreme Council briefed on the

meetings

NSI - 7 APR 1986
★ FROM PAGE ONE

jaya in formulating the earlier agreement for co-operation in the State.

He confirmed that the Barisan Nasional had received applications from other parties in Sabah, such as Pasok and the Sabah Chinese Party, to join the coalition.

The Umno Supreme Council also discussed the economic situation and steps that should be taken by State Governments to ensure the success of the Fifth Malaysia Plan, which was passed by the Dewan Rakyat last week.

In this regard, the State Governments would be urged to expedite the approval of land applications for various development projects.

This was to ensure that the price of land did not spiral so as to unreasonably increase the costs of building and construction.

On the general election, Dr Mahathir smiled and said: "No, we did not discuss this." Neither was there any discussion on the appointment of a Deputy Prime Minister.