

Dr M. PBS getting foreign aid

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By Rashid Bakar

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the Parti Bersatu Sabah is getting financial aid from foreign sources.

The Prime Minister, who declined to name the sources, said being a rich party PBS would extend financial aid to the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) in the general election.

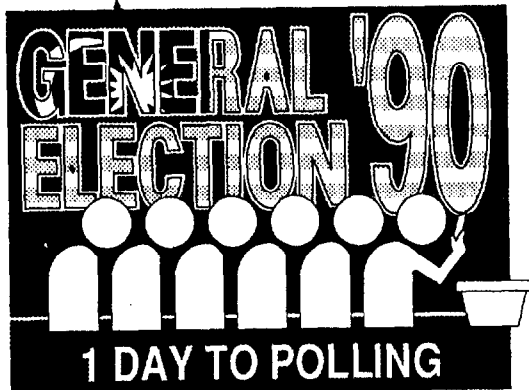
Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman and Umno president, made the disclosure when asked by reporters during his visit here whether it was true that PBS was receiving financial aid from foreign sources.

He said: "This is not a question of possibility. We know for sure that they (PBS) are getting financial aid from foreign sources. But we don't want to mention the sources."

Dr Mahathir had earlier held two-closed door meetings with BN candidates and workers at the Umno building here.

On the PBS pullout from the BN, he said the Government would mount an information campaign to explain its implications to Sabahans.

The actions of PBS president Datuk Seri Joseph Pairin Kitingan would cause the people



to suffer, he said.

"If Sabah has a Government that does not maintain good ties with the Federal Government, then it would be difficult for the latter to develop the State.

"We are not blaming the people of Sabah. But we are blaming the PBS for poisoning the minds of the people," he added.

Pullout

On comments by Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that the PBS pullout would benefit APU, he said: "We have seen that Pas is now ready to cooperate with the PBS, which has succeeded in routing Berjaya, and is now working very hard to wipe out Tun Mustapha and Usno.

"We will wait and see who will benefit and who will be at the losing end."

Asked whether the Umno constitution may be changed to accommodate members from Sabah in line with the party's recent decision to spread its wings to the State, Dr Mahathir said he has to study the matter.

If amendments are found necessary, the matter will be tabled at the Umno general assembly for approval.

On the peace accord signed between the North Kalimantan Communist Party and the Government in Kuching yesterday, Dr Mahathir described the event as another Government success in its fight against the communists.

"We have fought the communists for a long time. They had finally given up their armed struggle because they knew they were engaged in a futile war."